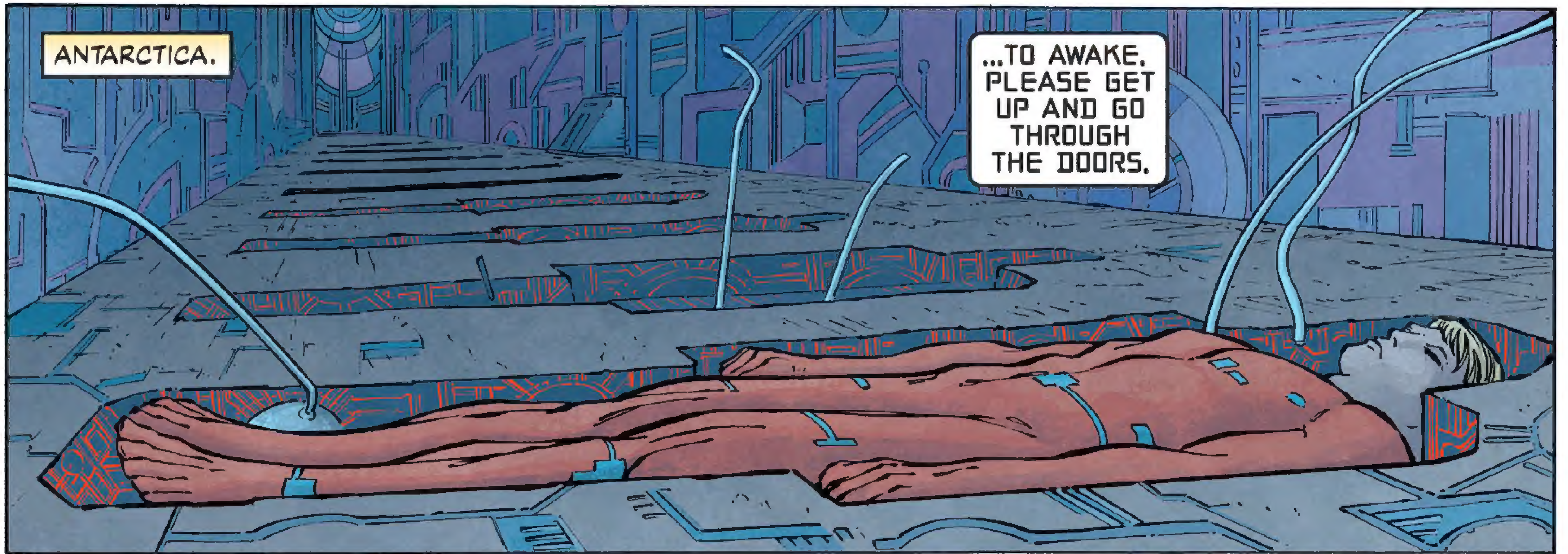
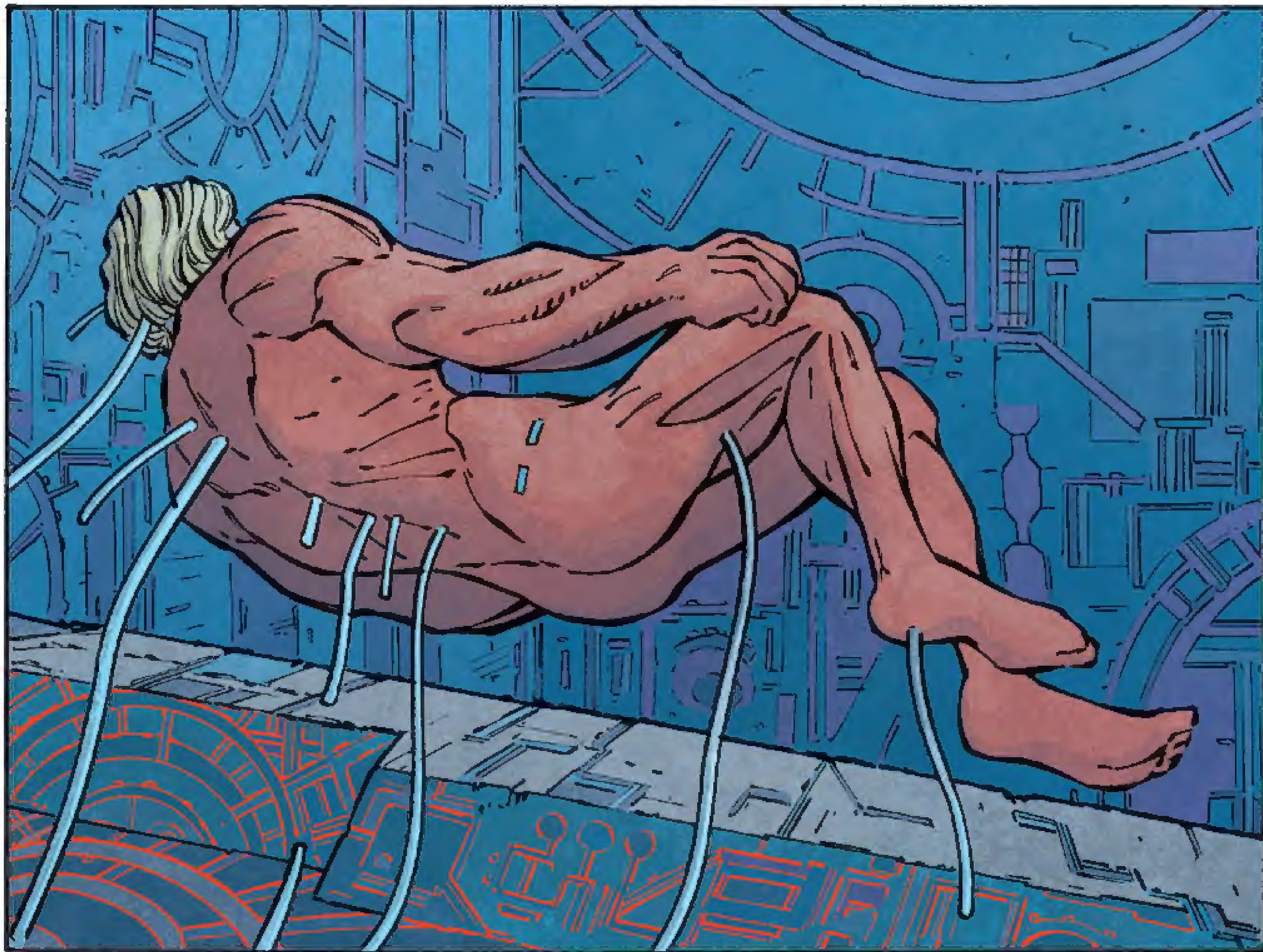
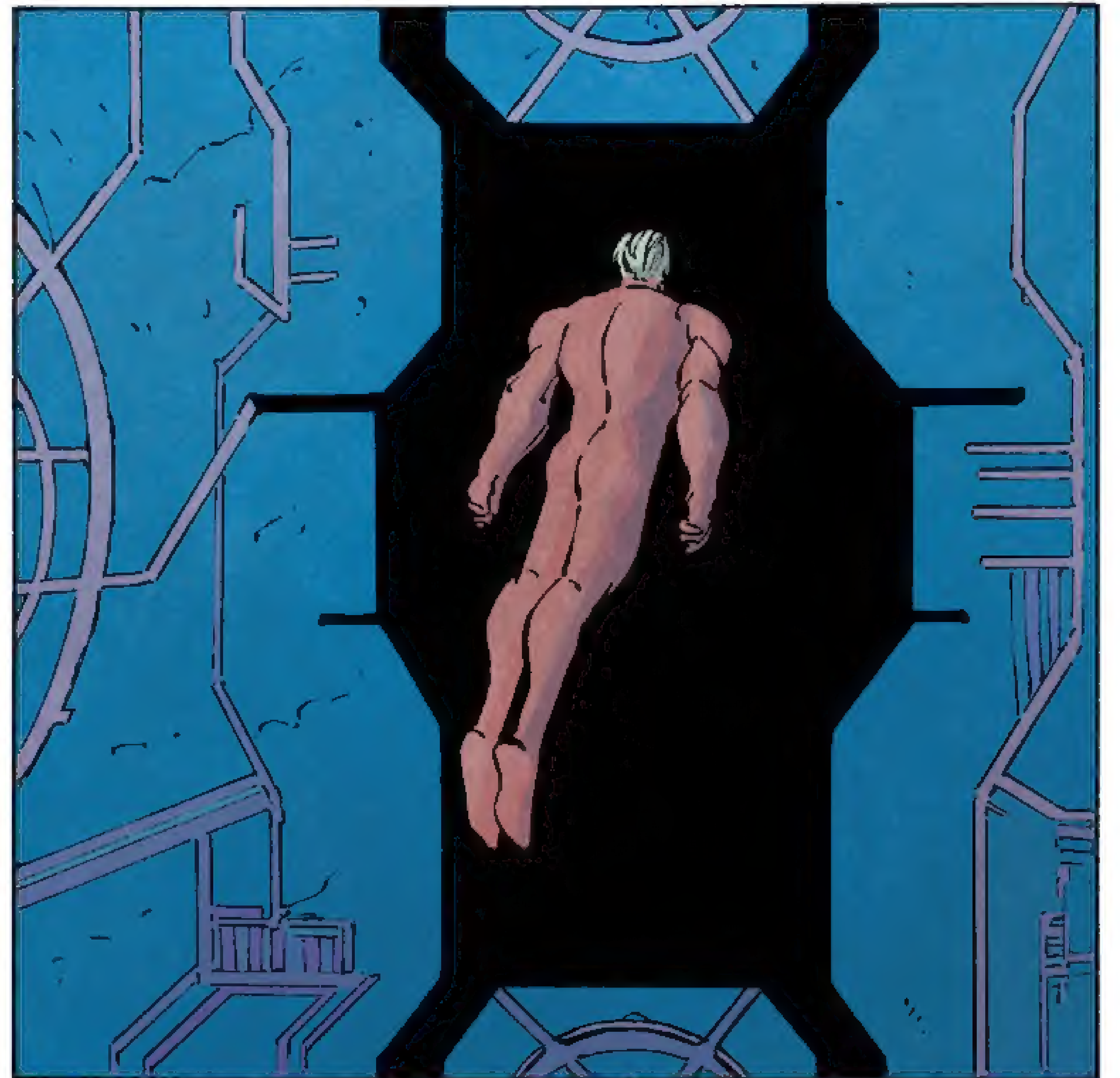
NEIL GAIMAN • JOHN ROMITA JR.

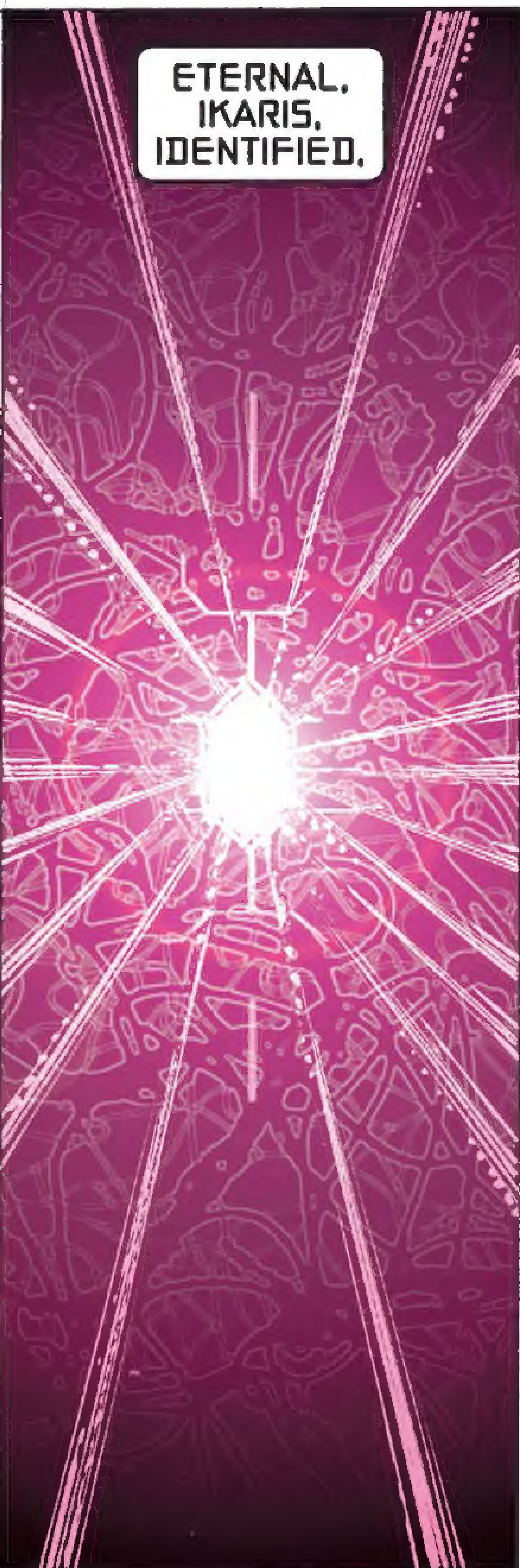
ETERNALS™

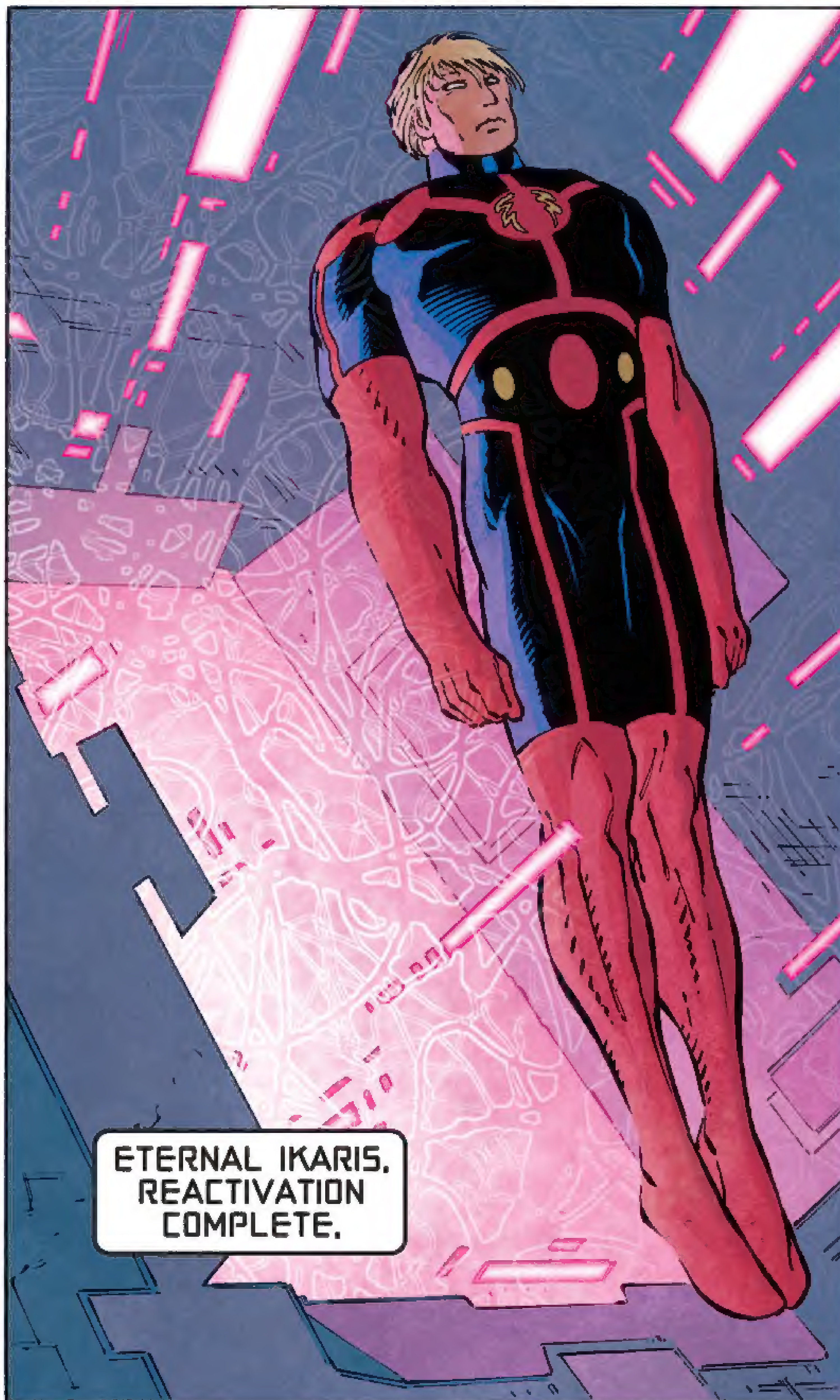


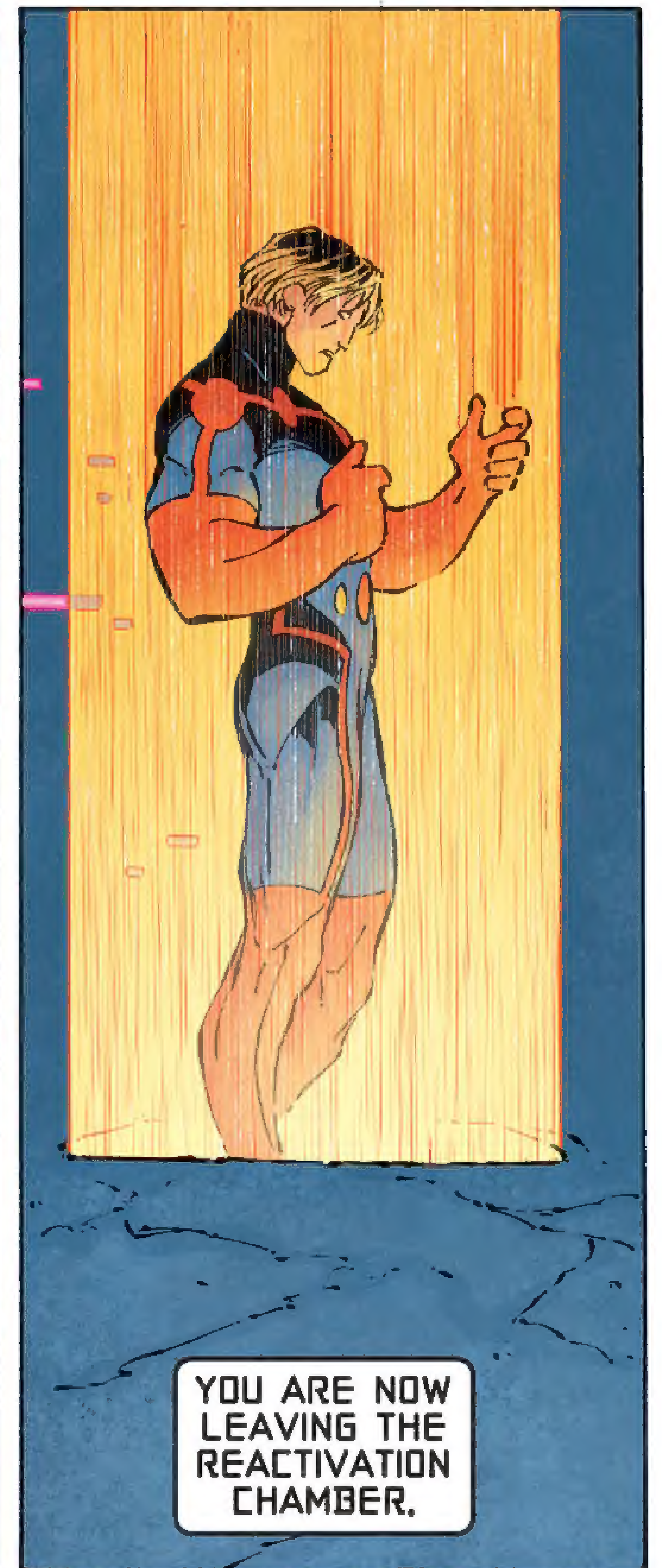

ANTARCTICA.
...TO AWAKE. PLEASE GET UP AND GO THROUGH THE DOORS.






ETERNAL. IKARIS. IDENTIFIED.

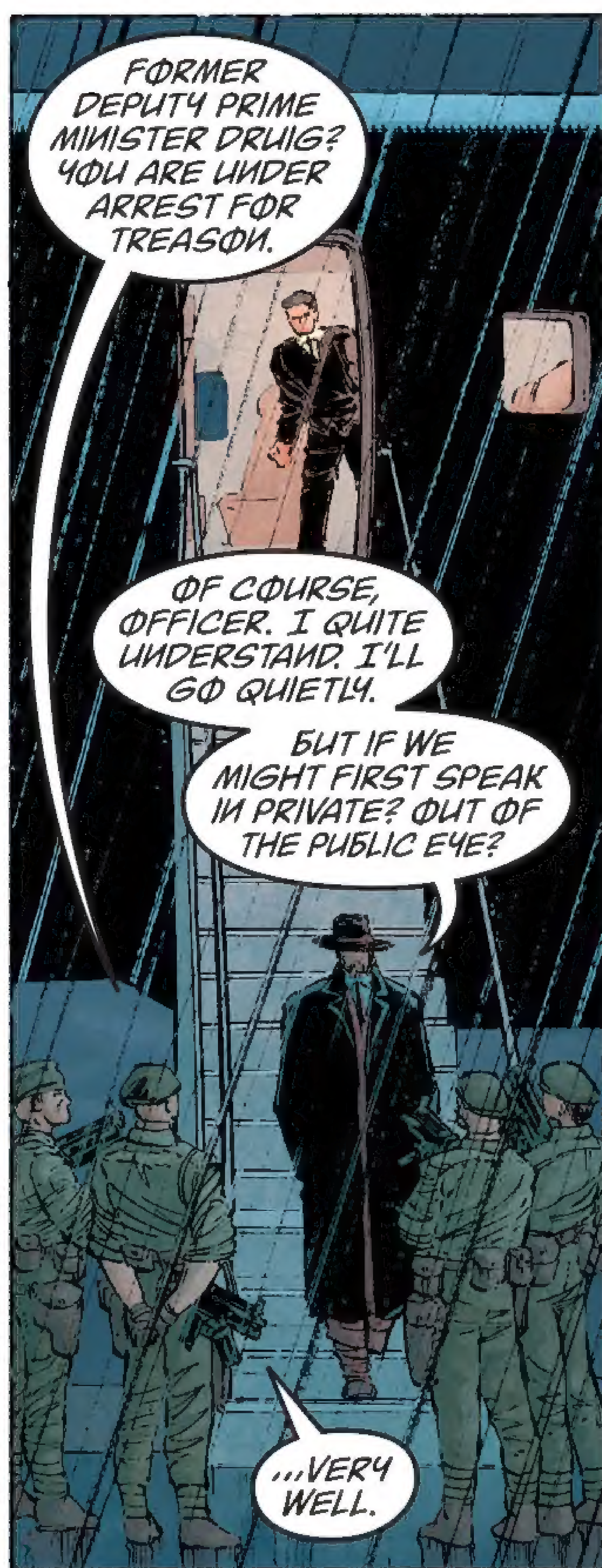

ETERNAL IKARIS. REACTIVATION COMPLETE.

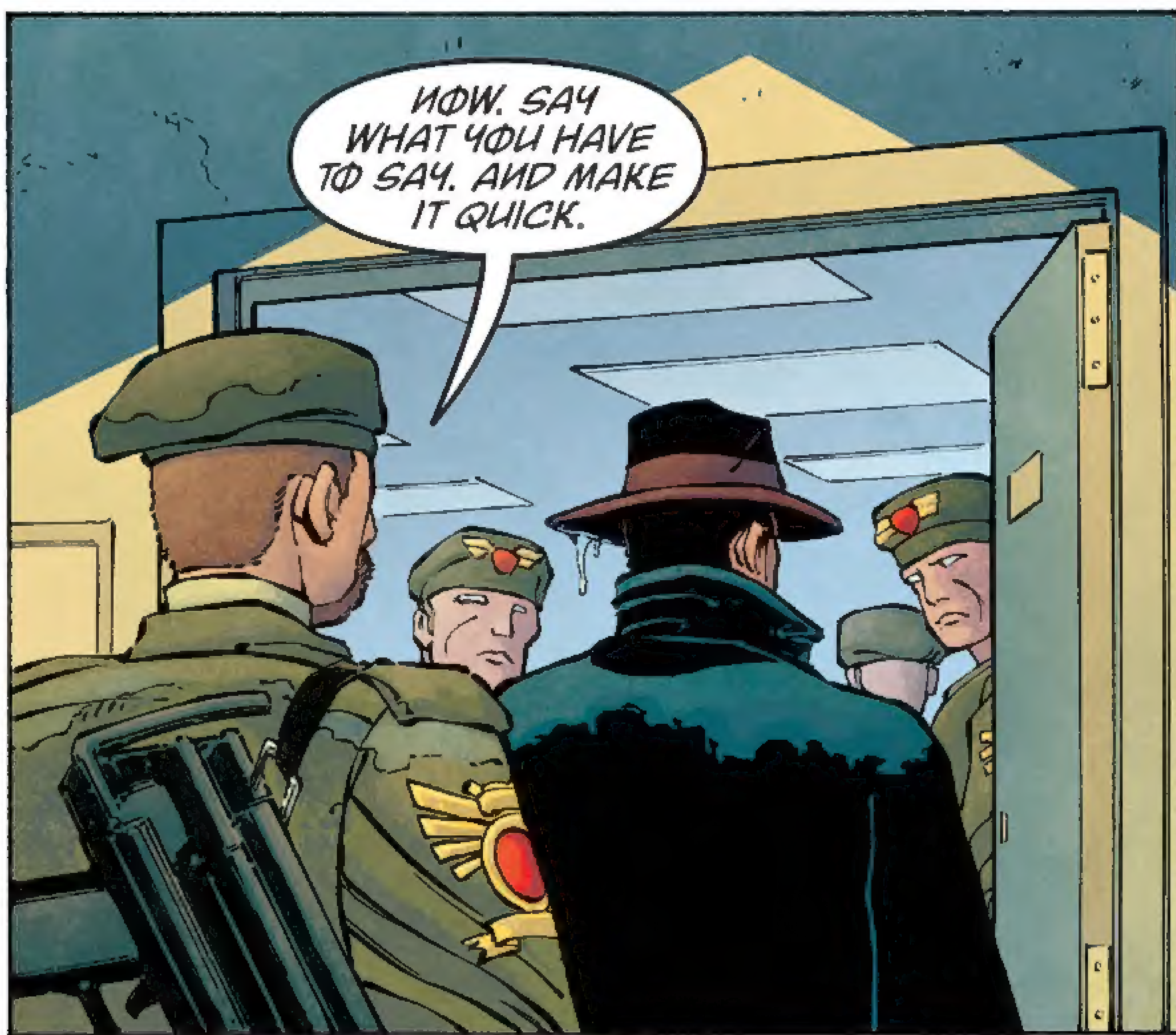

YOU ARE NOW LEAVING THE REACTIVATION CHAMBER.

WHERE...?
WELCOME BACK TO OLYMPIA, ETERNAL IKARIS.
WELCOME HOME.
PLEASE INITIATE REPAIR SEQUENCE.


SAN FRANCISCO. GOLDEN GATE PARK.
IT'S A GREAT DAY FOR A PICNIC, ISN'T IT, MR. CURRY?
I GUESS, SPRITE. BUT I'M ONLY HERE BECAUSE YOU PROMISED ME ANSWERS.

AND I KEEP MY PROMISES, MR. CURRY. OVER THERE, BY THAT BLACK ROCK.

VOROZHEIKA NATIONAL AIRPORT.

FORMER DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DRUIG? YOU ARE UNDER ARREST FOR TREASON.
OF COURSE, OFFICER. I QUITE UNDERSTAND. I'LL GO QUIETLY.
BUT IF WE MIGHT FIRST SPEAK IN PRIVATE? OUT OF THE PUBLIC EYE?
...VERY WELL.

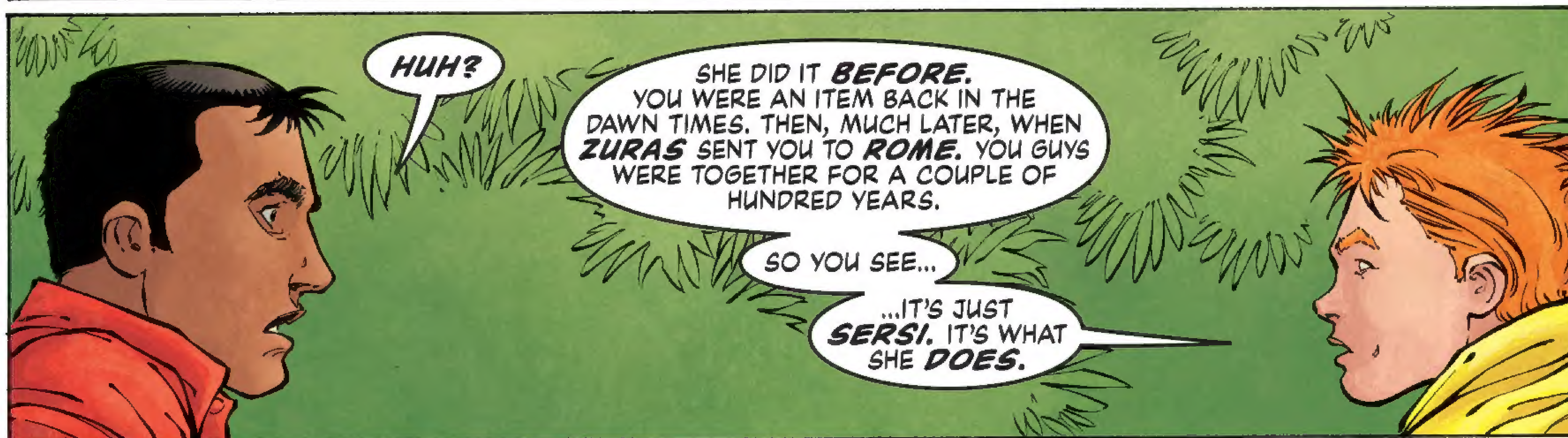


NOW. SAY WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY. AND MAKE IT QUICK.

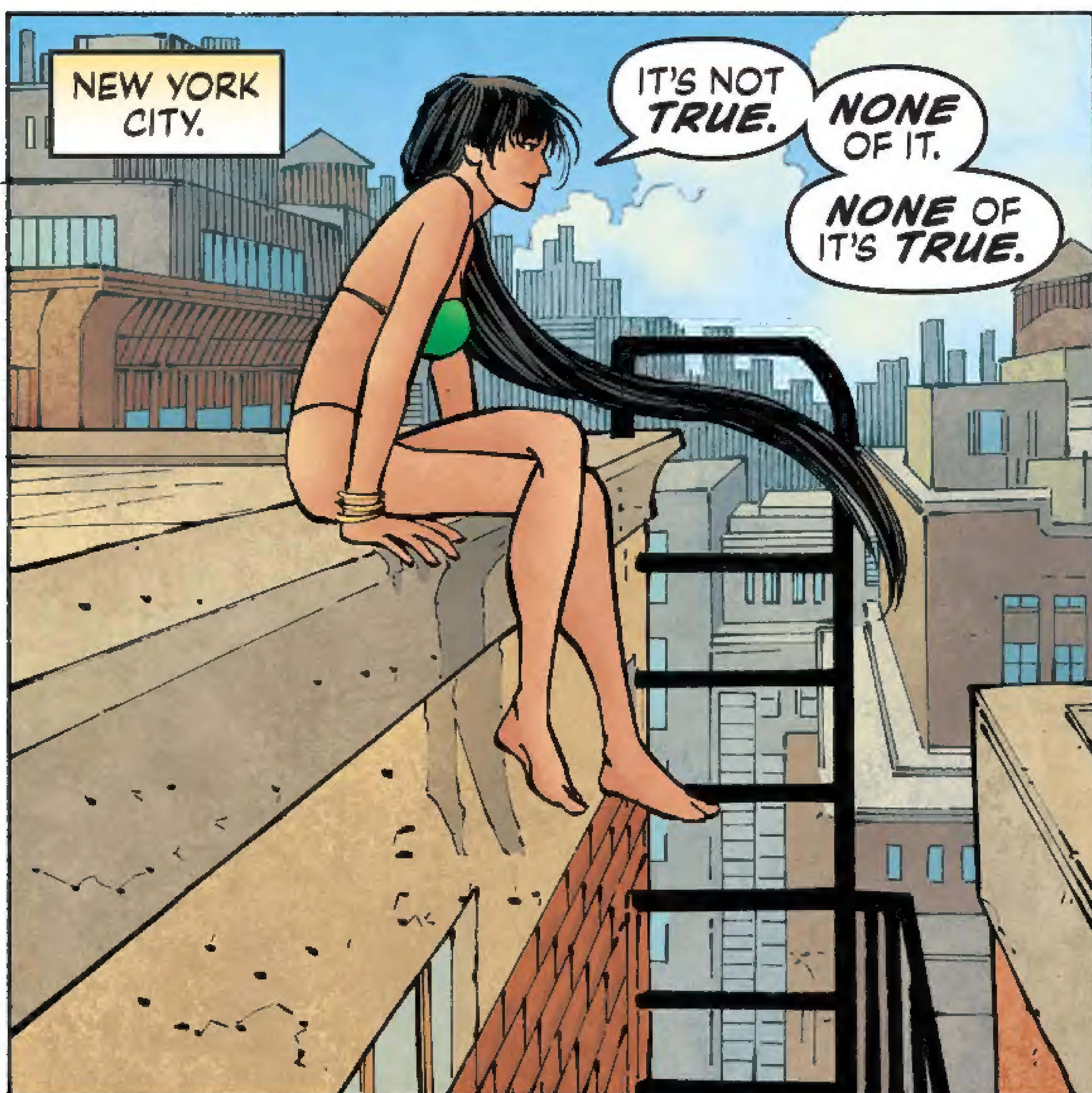

ЧАСТНЫЙ


THERE, GENTLEMEN.
AS LONG AS YOU WORK FOR ME, I PROMISE YOU WILL NEVER SEE THOSE THINGS AGAIN.
NOW...


THE PROSPERITY PARTY HEADQUARTERS, I THINK.
I HAVE A COUNTRY TO TAKE OVER.

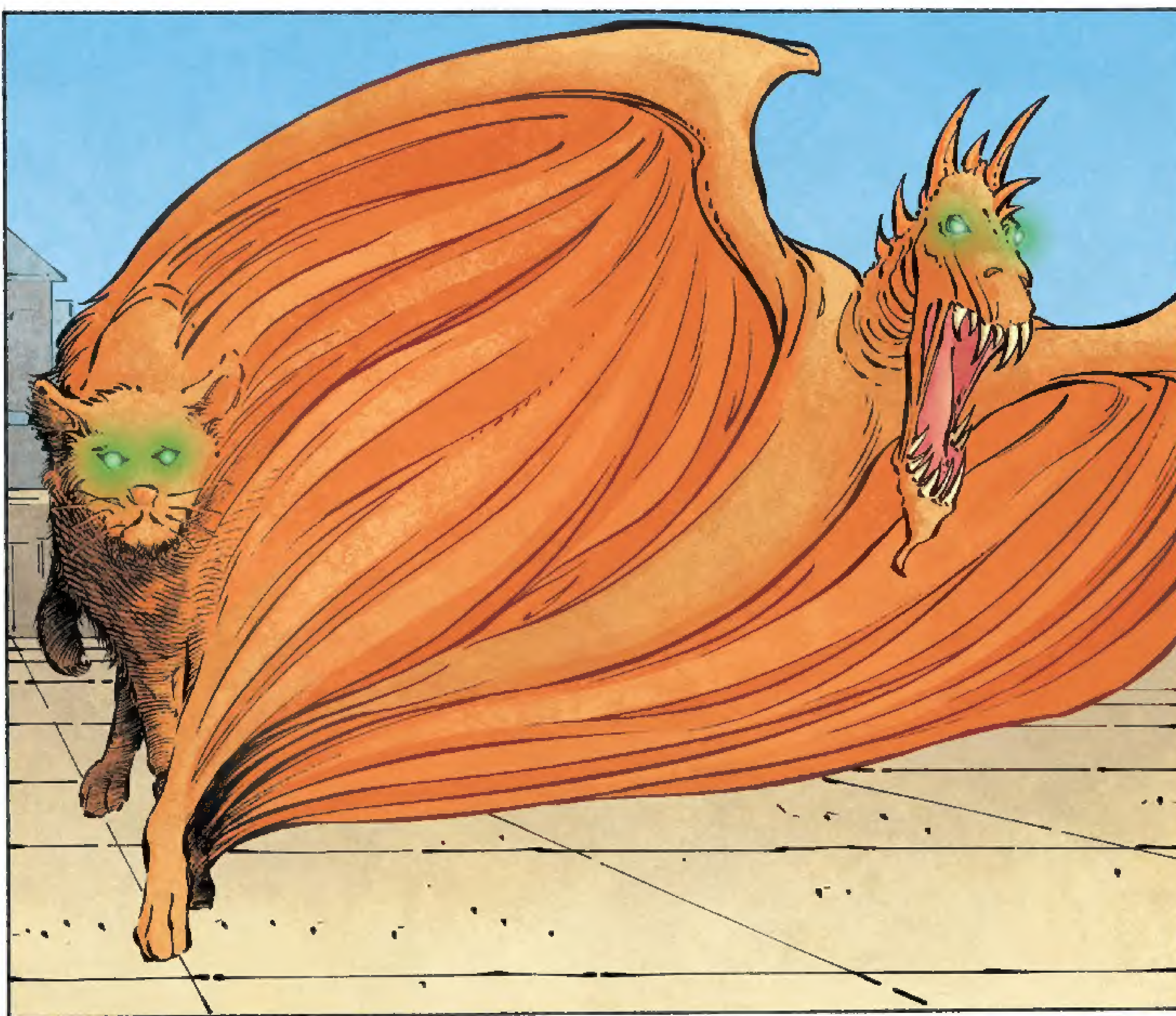

I LOVE PICNICS. WICKED.
AND MR. CURRY, YOU MUSTN'T GET UPSET ABOUT SERSI BREAKING YOUR HEART. IT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME.


HUH?
SHE DID IT BEFORE. YOU WERE AN ITEM BACK IN THE DAWN TIMES. THEN, MUCH LATER, WHEN ZURAS SENT YOU TO ROME. YOU GUYS WERE TOGETHER FOR A COUPLE OF HUNDRED YEARS.
SO YOU SEE...
...IT'S JUST SERSI. IT'S WHAT SHE DOES.


NEW YORK CITY.
IT'S NOT TRUE.
NONE OF IT.
NONE OF IT'S TRUE.

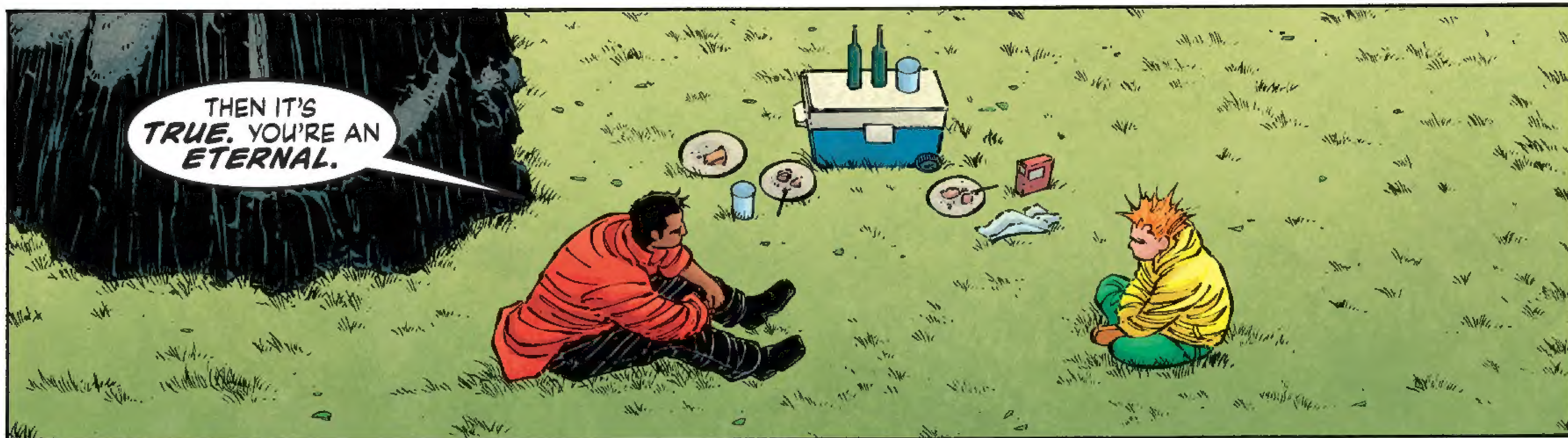

HEY, PUSS. YOU DON'T THINK I HAVE MAGIC POWERS, DO YOU?
Mrew?


ME NEITHER. I MEAN, IF I DID, I'D JUST WAVE MY FINGERS AND TURN YOU FROM A CAT INTO A DRAGON...

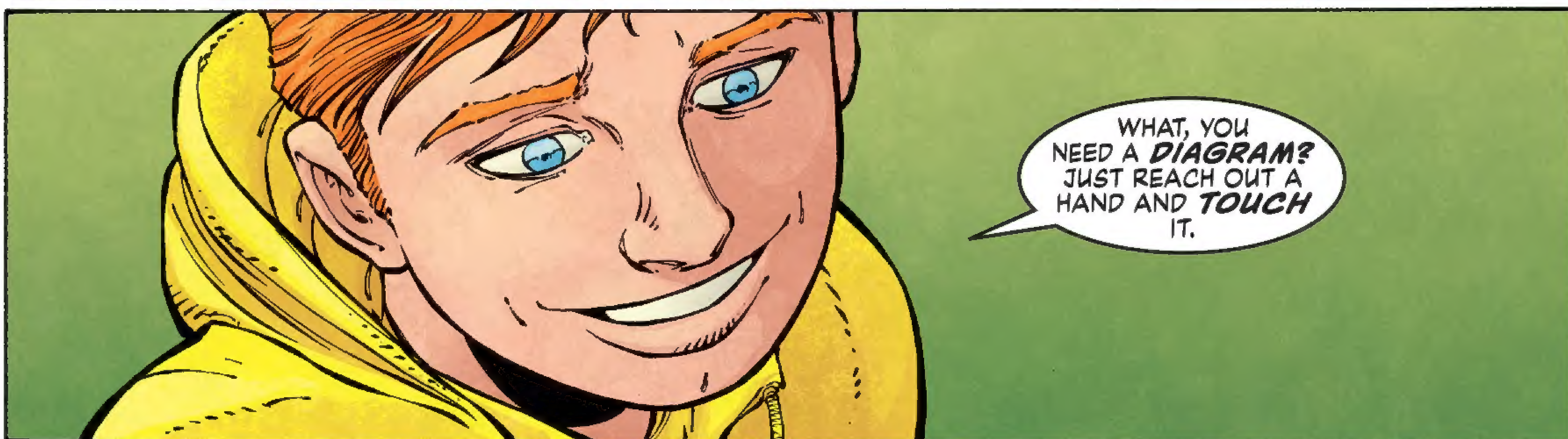


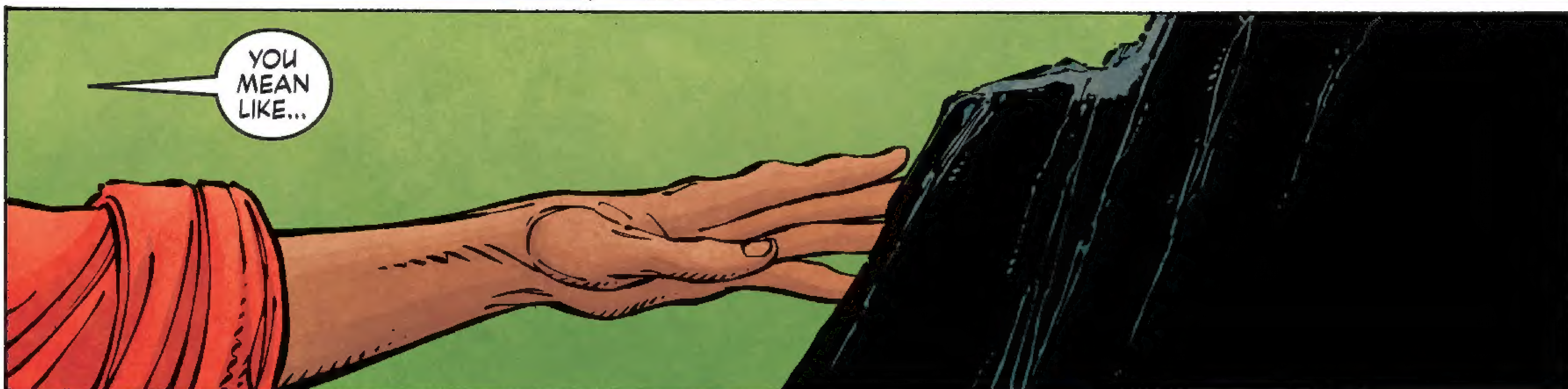



OH HELL.


THEN IT'S TRUE. YOU'RE AN ETERNAL.


NOPE. I'M A HUMAN KID. NORMAL ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD HUMAN KID. NEXT BIRTHDAY I'LL BE TWELVE. YOU COULD BE EITHER, HUMAN OR ETERNAL.
HUH? HOW DO YOU MEAN?
THERE'S AN EASY WAY TO FIND OUT, THOUGH.
TOUCH THAT ROCK OVER THERE. THE BLACK ONE.


WHAT, YOU NEED A DIAGRAM? JUST REACH OUT A HAND AND TOUCH IT.


YOU MEAN LIKE...


YOU'RE AN ETERNAL, ALL RIGHT.
WHOA...
HOLD ON TIGHT. GOING DOWN.

SO, UH, RIGHT. I GUESS YOU **DO** KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

OUT OF CURIOSITY, HOW MUCH OF WHAT HARRIS TOLD ME IS **TRUE?**

MOST OF IT. HE GOT **DETAILS** WRONG--YOU WERE **THOTH,** NOT OSIRIS, THERE WERE **FOUR** CELESTIAL ARRIVALS, NOT THREE, THEY WERE CALLED **HOSTS,** NOT HORDES. THINGS LIKE THAT. BUT REALLY, CONSIDERING EVERYTHING, HE DID PRETTY WELL.

I GUESS WHATEVER PADDED CELL HE'S IN RIGHT NOW, THAT'S A COMFORT TO HIM.

SO YOU REALLY **ARE** AN ETERNAL?

NO, I'M REALLY **NOT.** I **TOLD** YOU. I'M A HUMAN KID. SCOUT'S HONOR. THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T ACTIVATE THE ROCK IN THE PARK. IT'S KEYED TO AN ETERNAL'S TOUCH.

OF COURSE NOW THAT YOU'VE ACTIVATED IT, IT'LL WORK FOR ANYONE FOR THE NEXT FEW HOURS.

WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH PAST THIS BARRIER. YOU'LL NEED TO RUN AT IT AND HIT IT, HARD.

YOU NEED TO HATE IT. TO WANT TO HURT IT. THAT'S THE KEY.

THIS IS JUST SO WEIRD.

NOTHING HAPPENS IF **I** DO IT. WATCH.

UGGH! **SEE?**

OKAY. SO I JUST HIT IT...


AND I HAVE TO WANT TO HURT IT...






SUCKER!


YOU ARE SO DUMB!




OKAY, JUST SO YOU KNOW, AS AN ETERNAL YOU'RE HARDWIRED NOT TO BE ABLE TO ATTACK OR HARM A CELESTIAL. THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO AGAINST THEM. YOU SHUT DOWN IF YOU TRY.


AND THAT'S WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW, MARKY-BOY. YOU'RE SHUTTING DOWN.
WHOA. I AM SO FRICKIN' SMART.
FRANKLY, SOMETIMES I SCARE MYSELF.



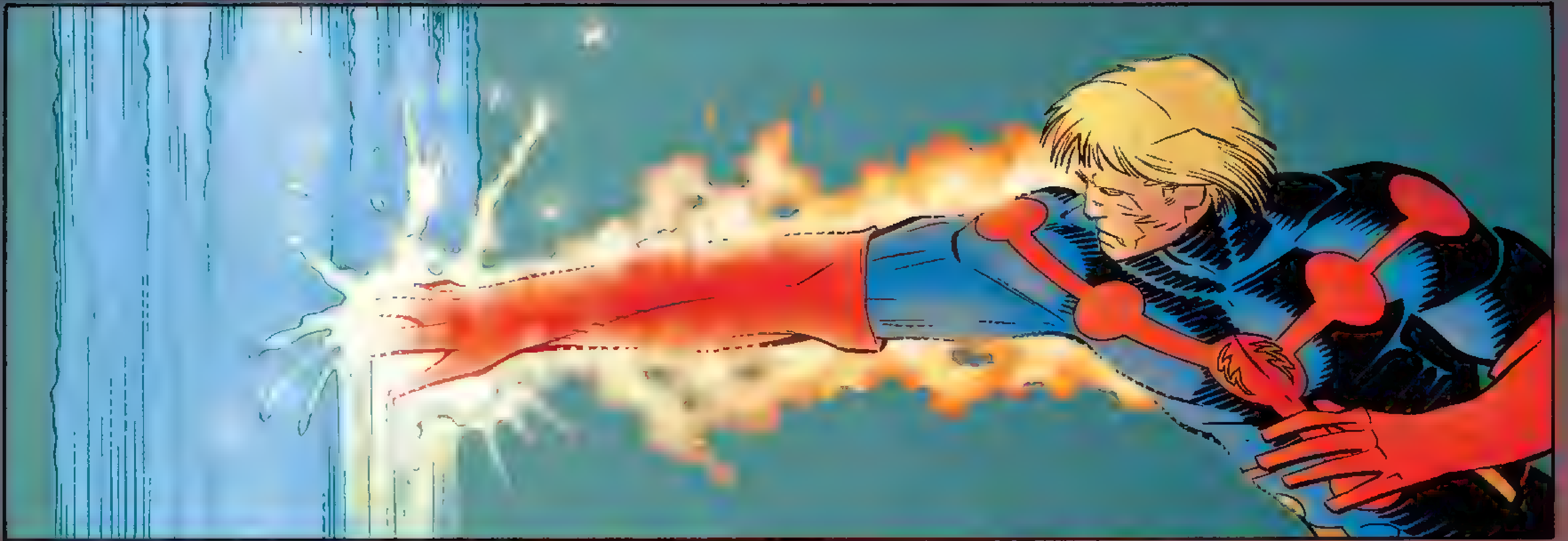




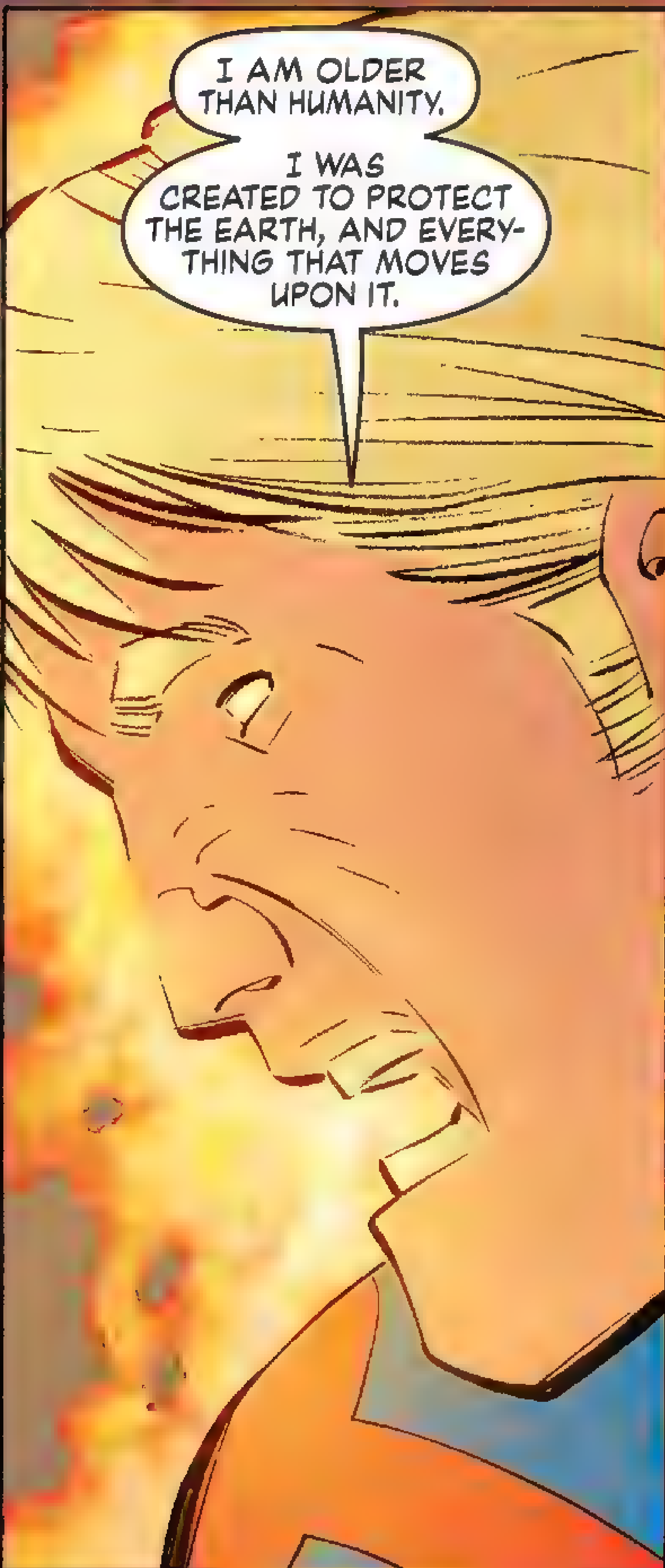
IKARIS. QUERY. DAMAGE TO FUNDAMENTAL SOUL-ANATOMY DETECTED. REFORGE/ABANDON?

REFORGE? YOU MEAN *REPAIR?* REBUILD?

ACKNOWLEDGED. SOUL-ANATOMY RECONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS.

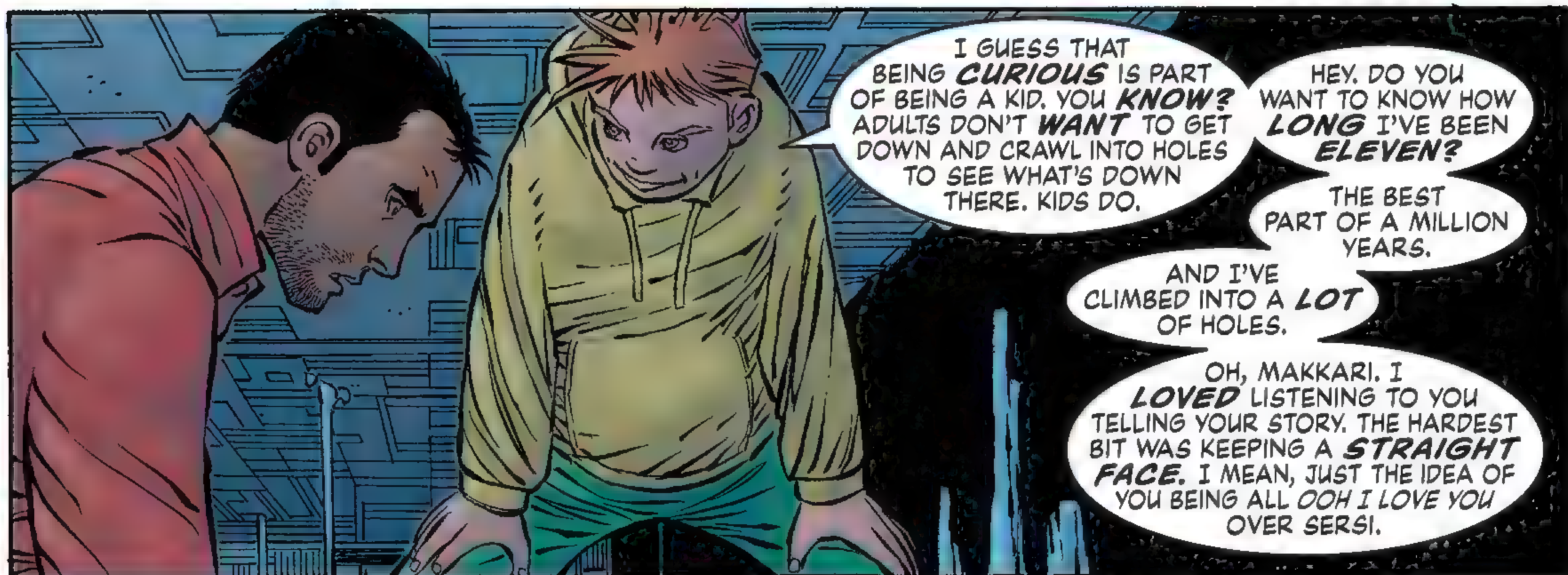



I AM IKARIS.
I AM IKARIS OF THE ETERNALS.

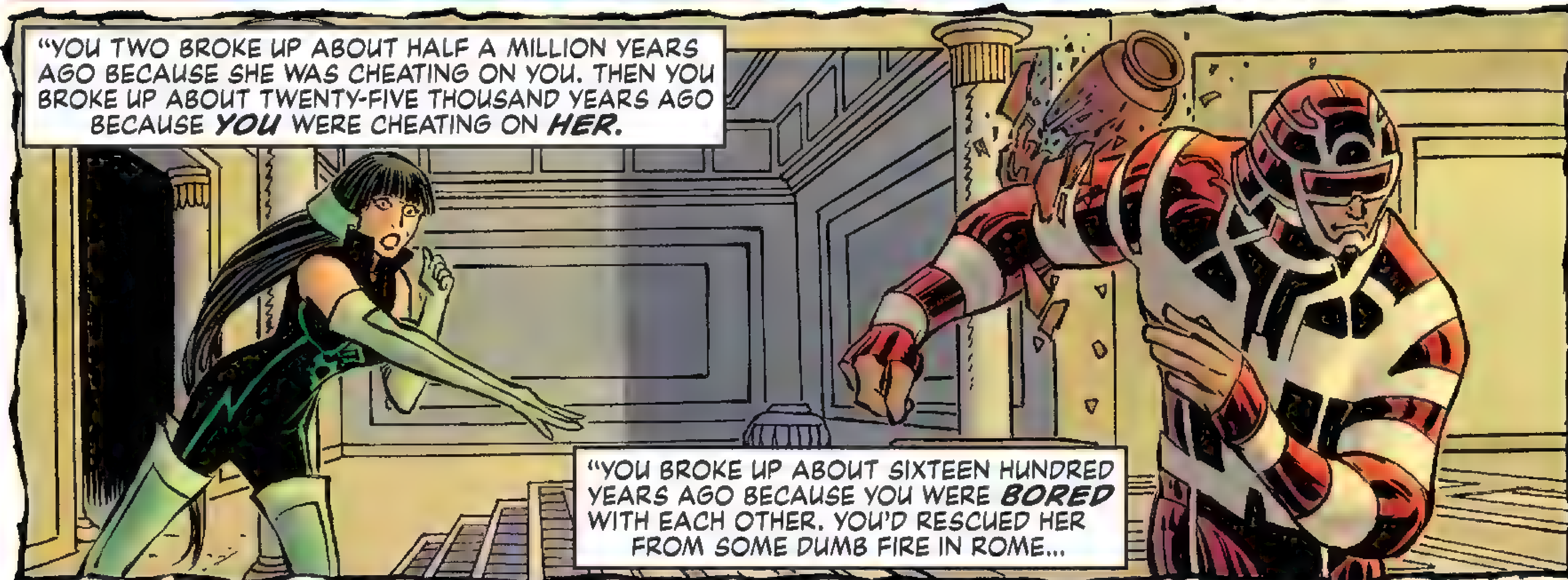

I AM OLDER THAN HUMANITY.
I WAS CREATED TO PROTECT THE EARTH, AND EVERY-THING THAT MOVES UPON IT.


SOMEONE HAS DONE THIS. SOMEONE HAS DONE THIS TO ME AND TO MY PEOPLE.
WHOEVER YOU ARE...
...WHEREVER YOU ARE...
...I WILL FIND YOU.

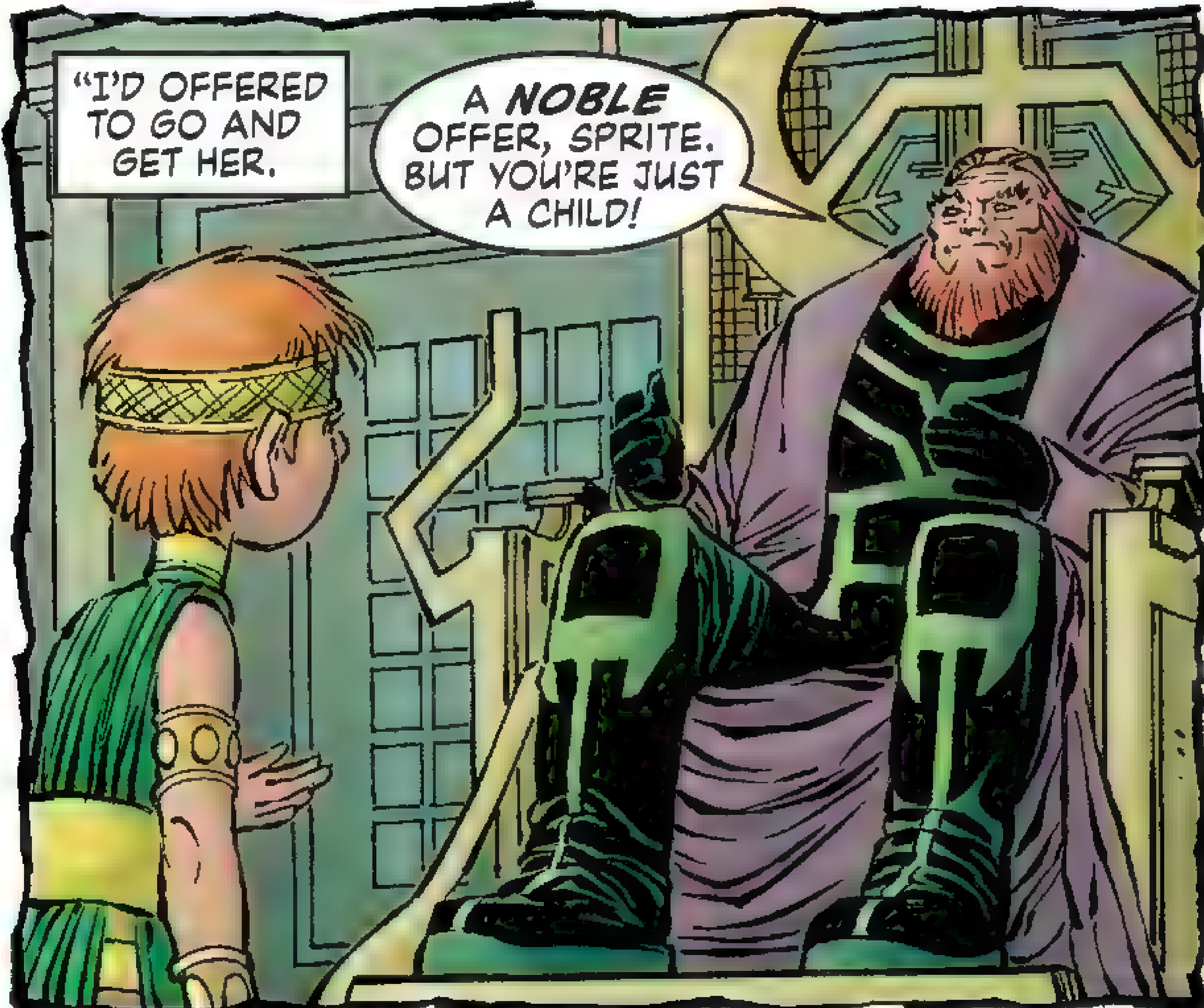
ARCHIVE?
YES, IKARIS.
I WANT A FULL BRIEFING. **NOW.**
ACKNOWLEDGED.



I GUESS THAT BEING CURIOUS IS PART OF BEING A KID. YOU KNOW? ADULTS DON'T WANT TO GET DOWN AND CRAWL INTO HOLES TO SEE WHAT'S DOWN THERE. KIDS DO.
HEY. DO YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW LONG I'VE BEEN ELEVEN?
THE BEST PART OF A MILLION YEARS.
AND I'VE CLIMBED INTO A LOT OF HOLES.
OH, MAKKARI. I LOVED LISTENING TO YOU TELLING YOUR STORY. THE HARDEST BIT WAS KEEPING A STRAIGHT FACE. I MEAN, JUST THE IDEA OF YOU BEING ALL OOH I LOVE YOU OVER SERSI.



"YOU TWO BROKE UP ABOUT HALF A MILLION YEARS AGO BECAUSE SHE WAS CHEATING ON YOU. THEN YOU BROKE UP ABOUT TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND YEARS AGO BECAUSE YOU WERE CHEATING ON HER.
"YOU BROKE UP ABOUT SIXTEEN HUNDRED YEARS AGO BECAUSE YOU WERE BORED WITH EACH OTHER. YOU'D RESCUED HER FROM SOME DUMB FIRE IN ROME...



"I'D OFFERED TO GO AND GET HER.
A NOBLE OFFER, SPRITE. BUT YOU'RE JUST A CHILD!

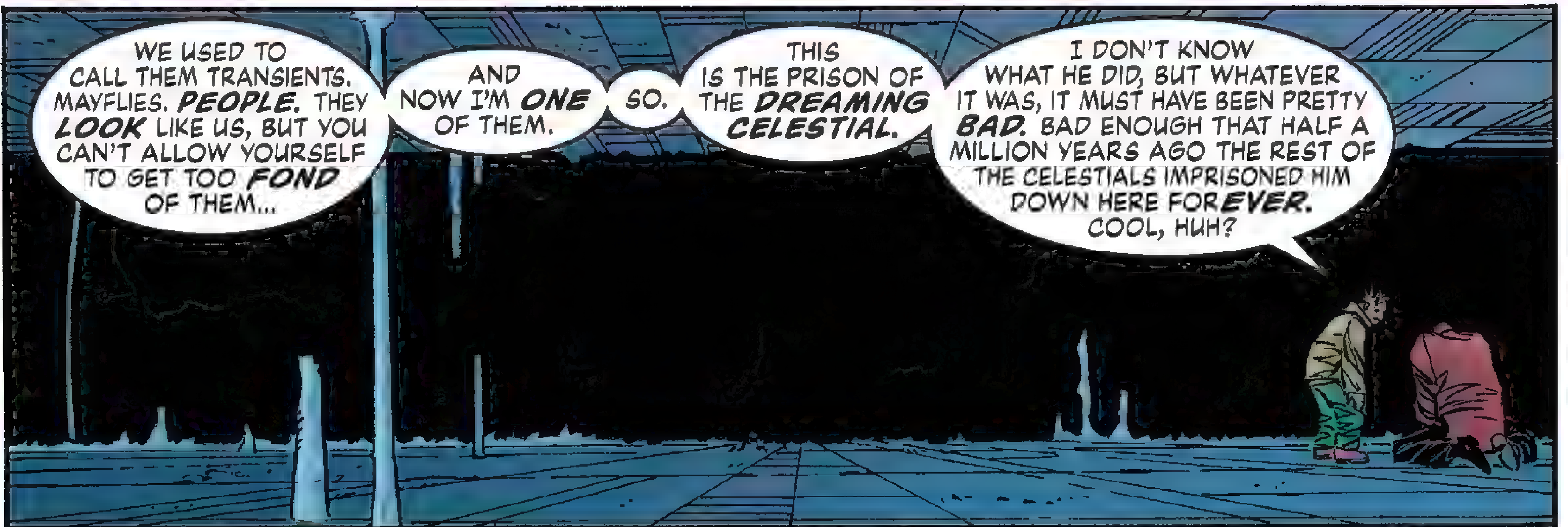


"OF COURSE, BY THEN SHE'D HAD SEXUAL RELATIONS WITH ALL THE STRAIGHT MALE ETERNALS, ALL SIXTY OF THEM, EXCEPT ME...
SPRITE. THAT'S SO SWEET. BUT YOU'RE JUST A CHILD!
"BECAUSE I WAS ELEVEN..."

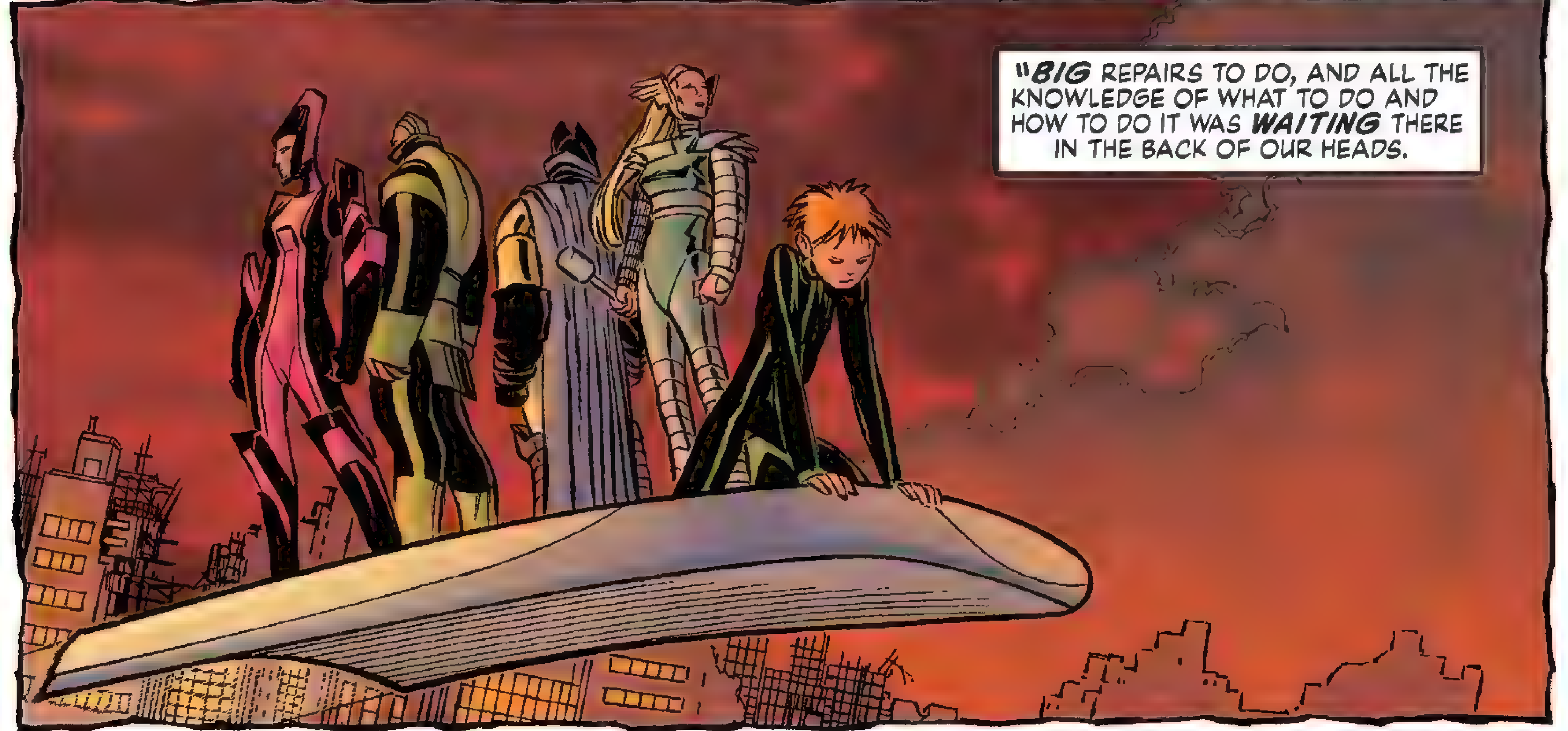


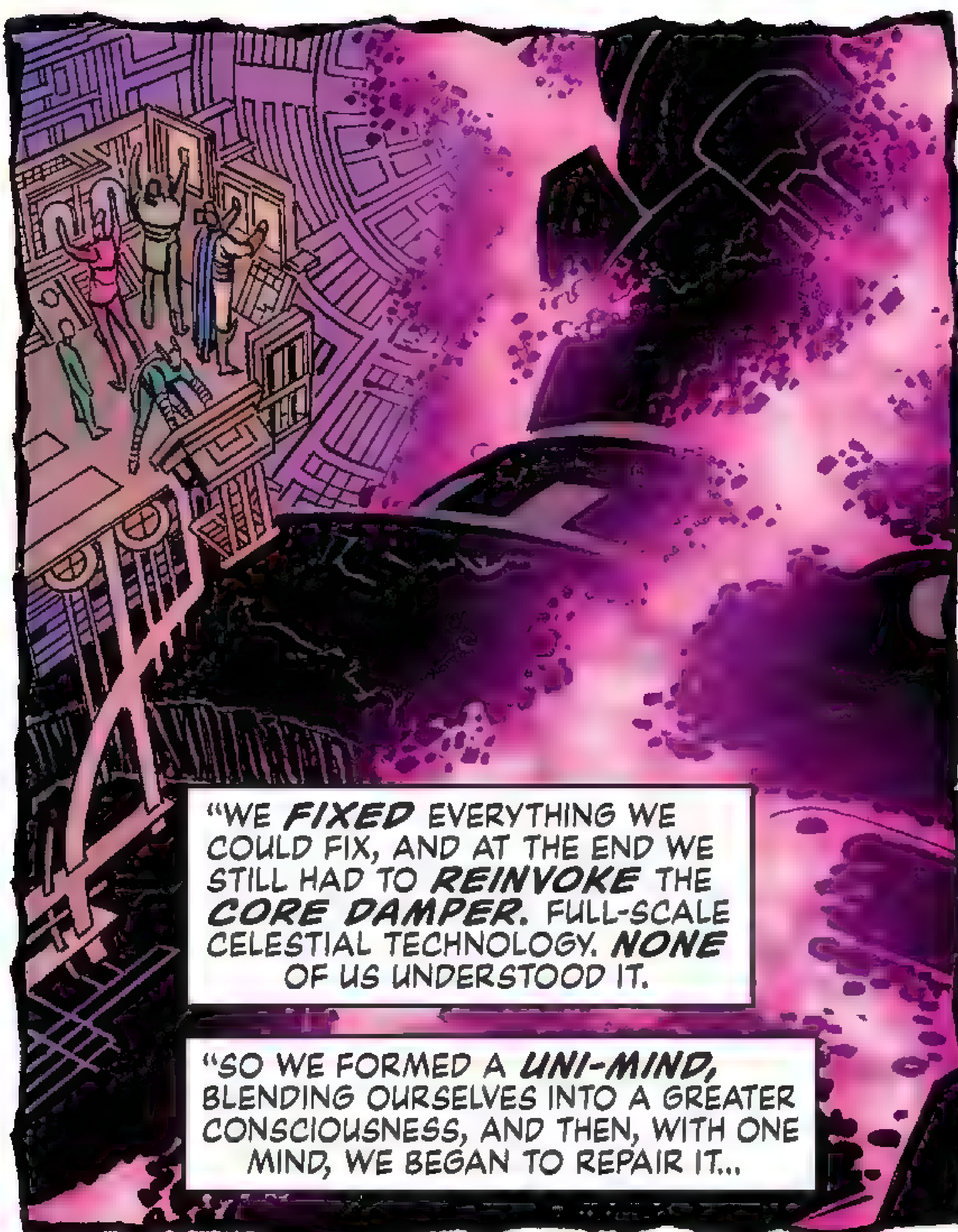
...ALWAYS. YEAR AFTER YEAR.
I WISH YOU HAD YOUR MEMORY BACK, MAKKARI.
IF YOU HAD YOUR MEMORY BACK, YOU'D KNOW HOW CLEVER I WAS...
LET'S TALK ABOUT BEING ELEVEN FOR A MILLION YEARS, SHALL WE?
WATCHING THE REST OF YOU SWANNING AROUND AS ADULTS.

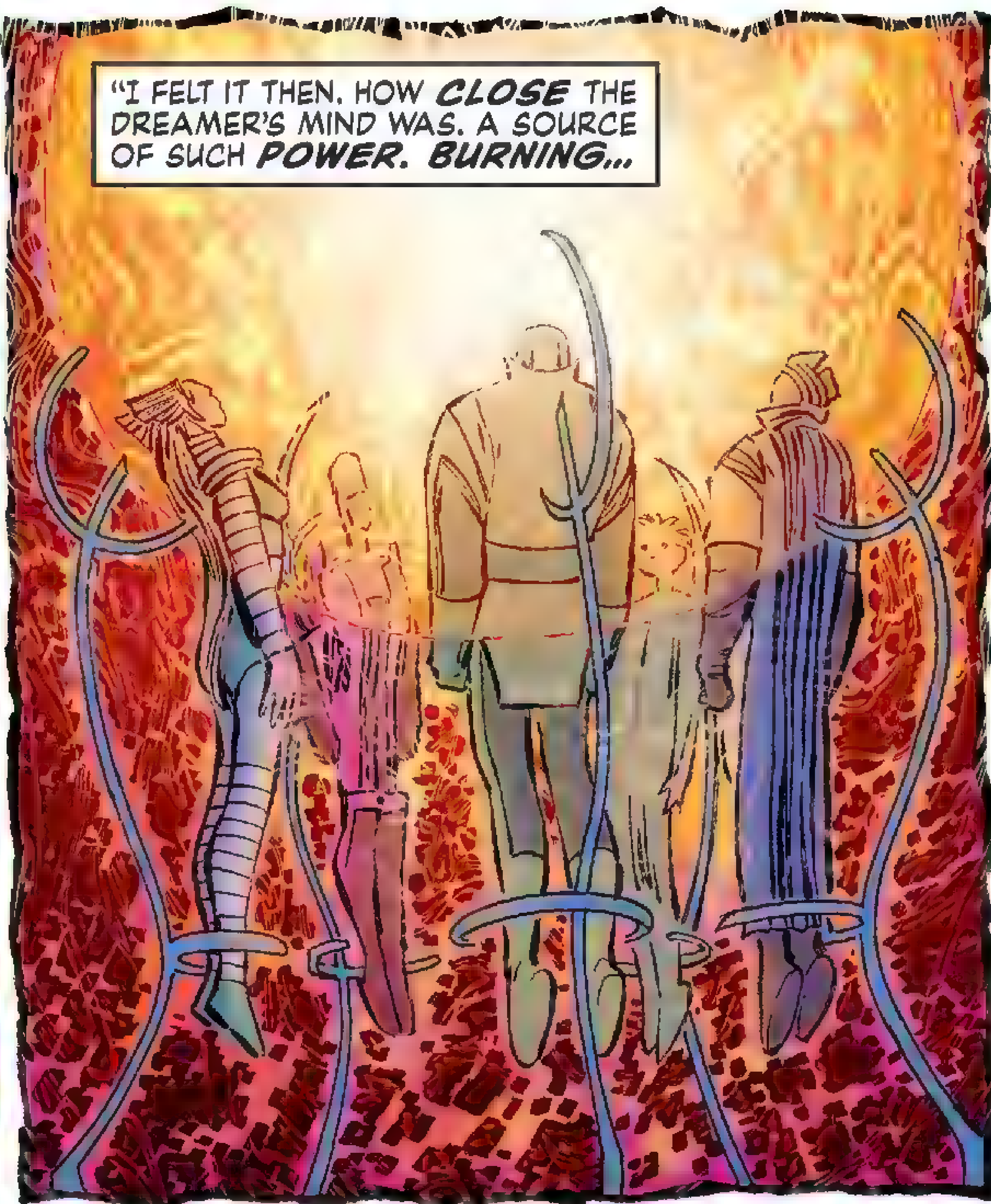

"WONDERING WHAT KIND OF WARPED CELESTIAL MIND WOULD DECIDE THAT JUST ONE OF US WASN'T GOING TO GROW UP.
"I GOT TO BE PETER FRICKIN' PAN--WHICH, INCIDENTALLY, BARRIE COMPLETELY STOLE FROM A NIGHT WHEN I GOT KIND OF STUPID AND SHOWED OFF TO HIM IN, WHAT, 1901...?
"BACK WHEN THE ONLY THING I HAD LEFT TO ENJOY WAS MESSING WITH THE TRANSIENTS."

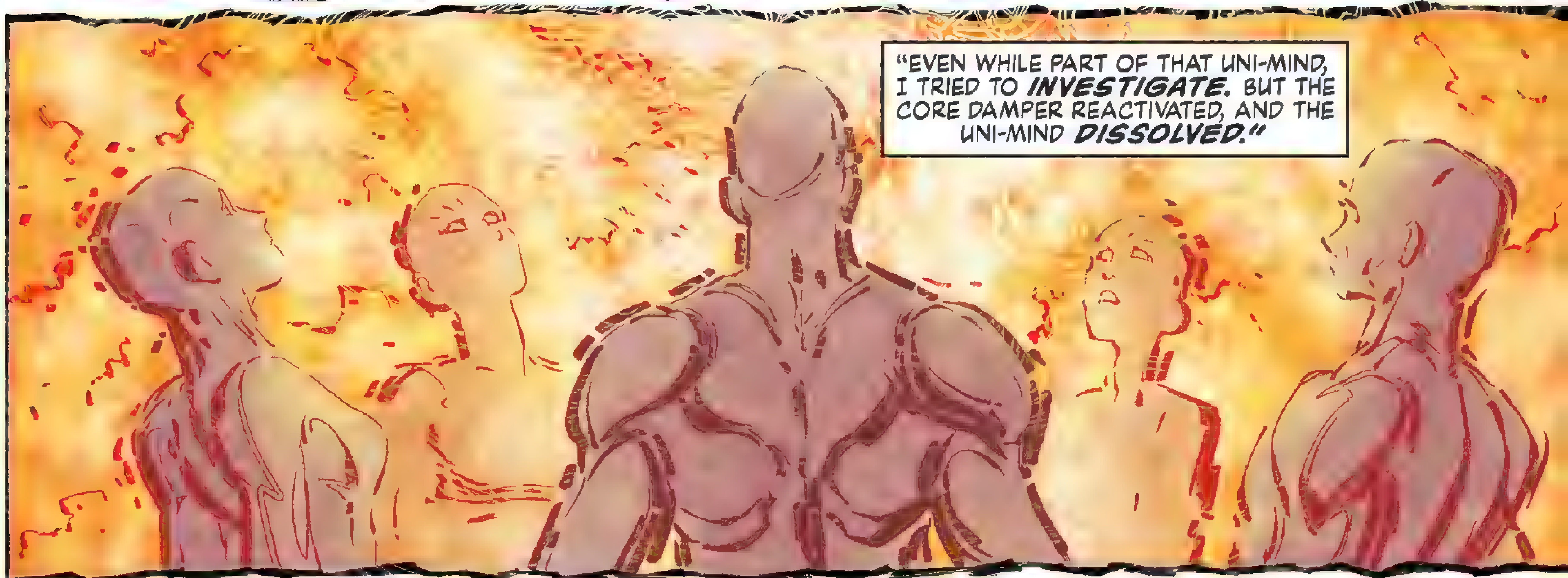

WE USED TO CALL THEM TRANSIENTS. MAYFLIES. PEOPLE. THEY LOOK LIKE US, BUT YOU CAN'T ALLOW YOURSELF TO GET TOO FOND OF THEM...
AND NOW I'M ONE OF THEM.
SO.
THIS IS THE PRISON OF THE DREAMING CELESTIAL.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE DID, BUT WHATEVER IT WAS, IT MUST HAVE BEEN PRETTY BAD. BAD ENOUGH THAT HALF A MILLION YEARS AGO THE REST OF THE CELESTIALS IMPRISONED HIM DOWN HERE FOREVER. COOL, HUH?


"FAST FORWARD TO A HUNDRED YEARS AGO. THEY HAD AN EARTHQUAKE IN THIS AREA, AND ALARMS WENT OFF IN OLYMPIA. ONE MOMENT I WAS SITTING AROUND AT THE SOUTH POLE, THE NEXT WE WERE ON OUR WAY TO CALIFORNIA.


"BIG REPAIRS TO DO, AND ALL THE KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT TO DO AND HOW TO DO IT WAS WAITING THERE IN THE BACK OF OUR HEADS.

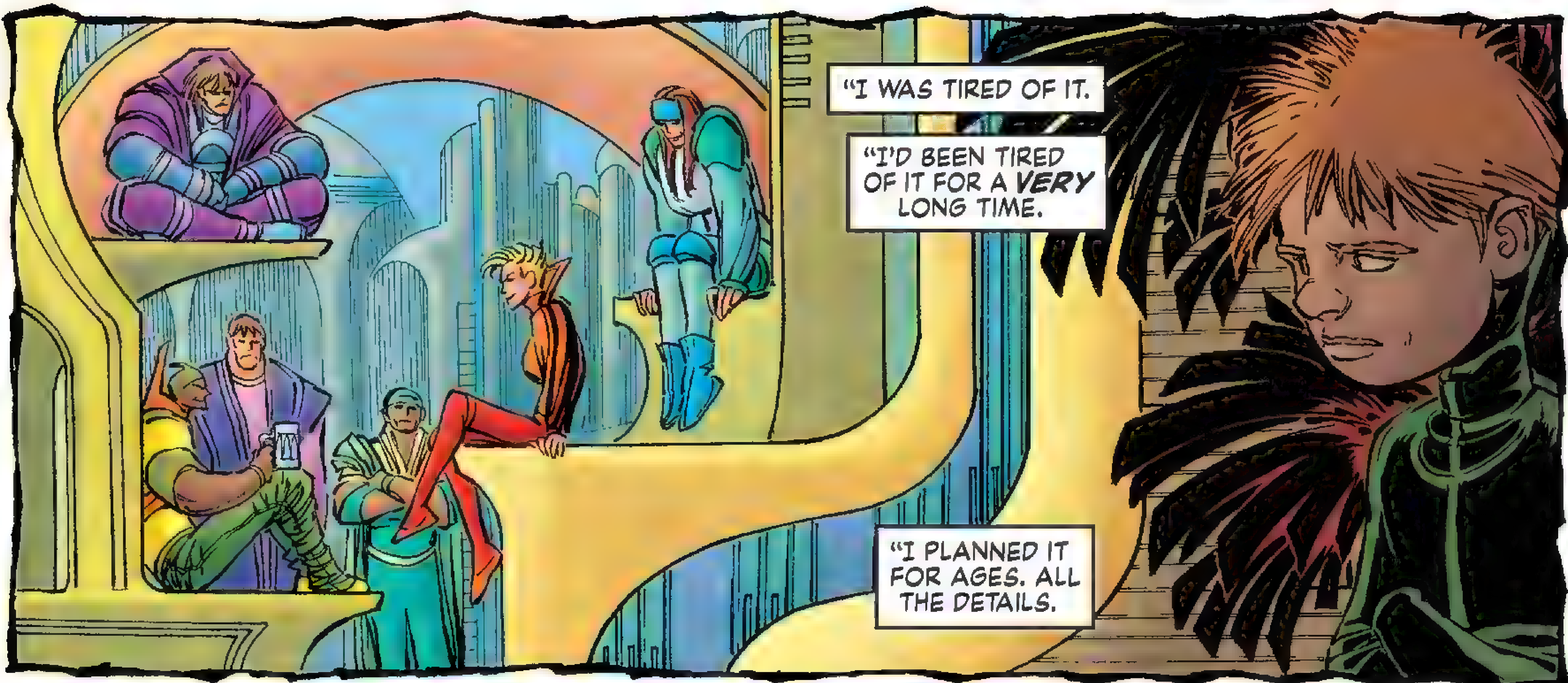

"WE FIXED EVERYTHING WE COULD FIX, AND AT THE END WE STILL HAD TO REINVOKE THE CORE DAMPER. FULL-SCALE CELESTIAL TECHNOLOGY. NONE OF US UNDERSTOOD IT.
"SO WE FORMED A UNI-MIND, BLENDING OURSELVES INTO A GREATER CONSCIOUSNESS, AND THEN, WITH ONE MIND, WE BEGAN TO REPAIR IT...

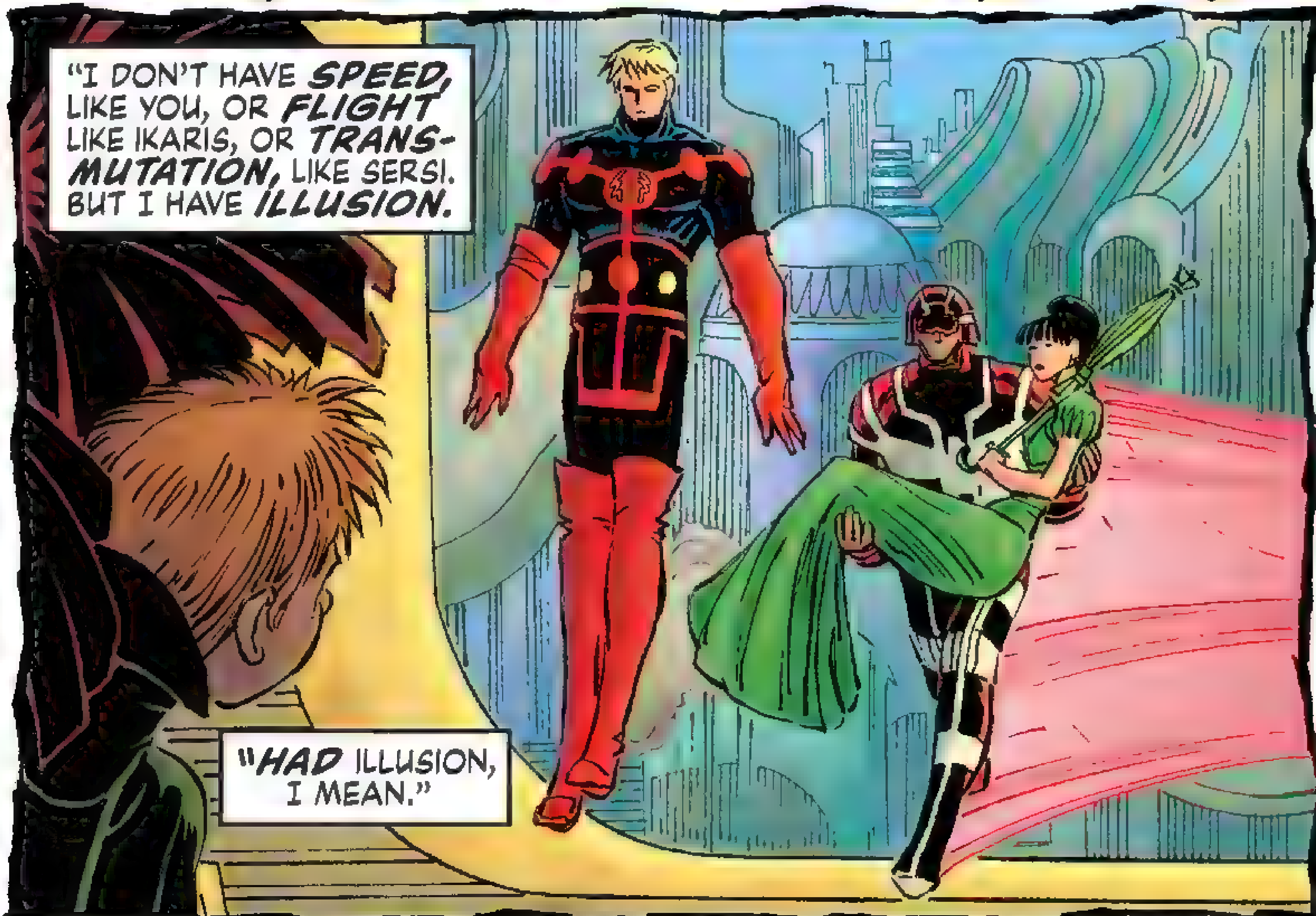

"I FELT IT THEN. HOW CLOSE THE DREAMER'S MIND WAS. A SOURCE OF SUCH POWER. BURNING...


"EVEN WHILE PART OF THAT UNI-MIND, I TRIED TO INVESTIGATE. BUT THE CORE DAMPER REACTIVATED, AND THE UNI-MIND DISSOLVED."

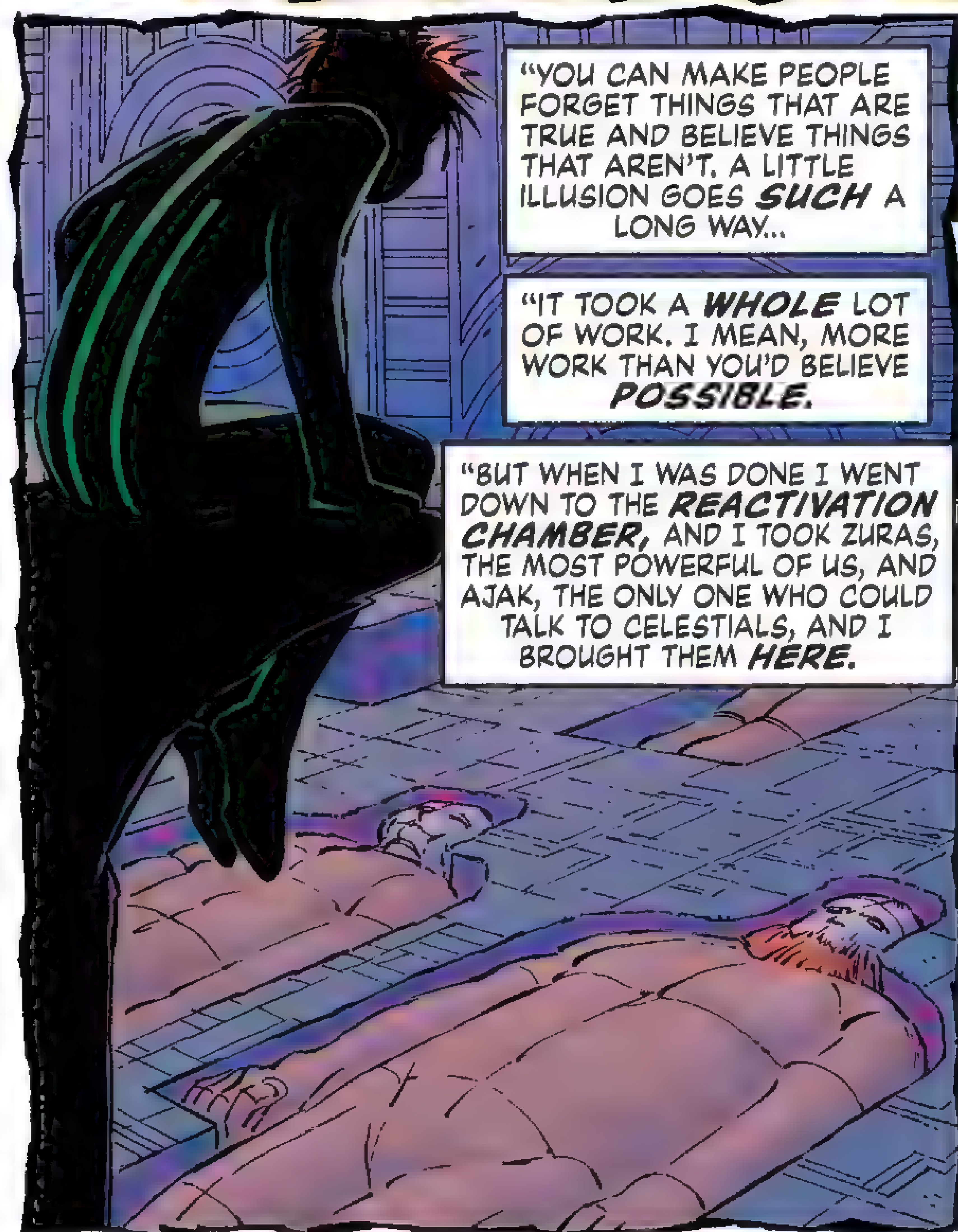

YOU KNOW, A MILLION YEARS OF BEING ELEVEN WAS ENOUGH.
HELL, TEN YEARS OF BEING ELEVEN WAS ENOUGH.

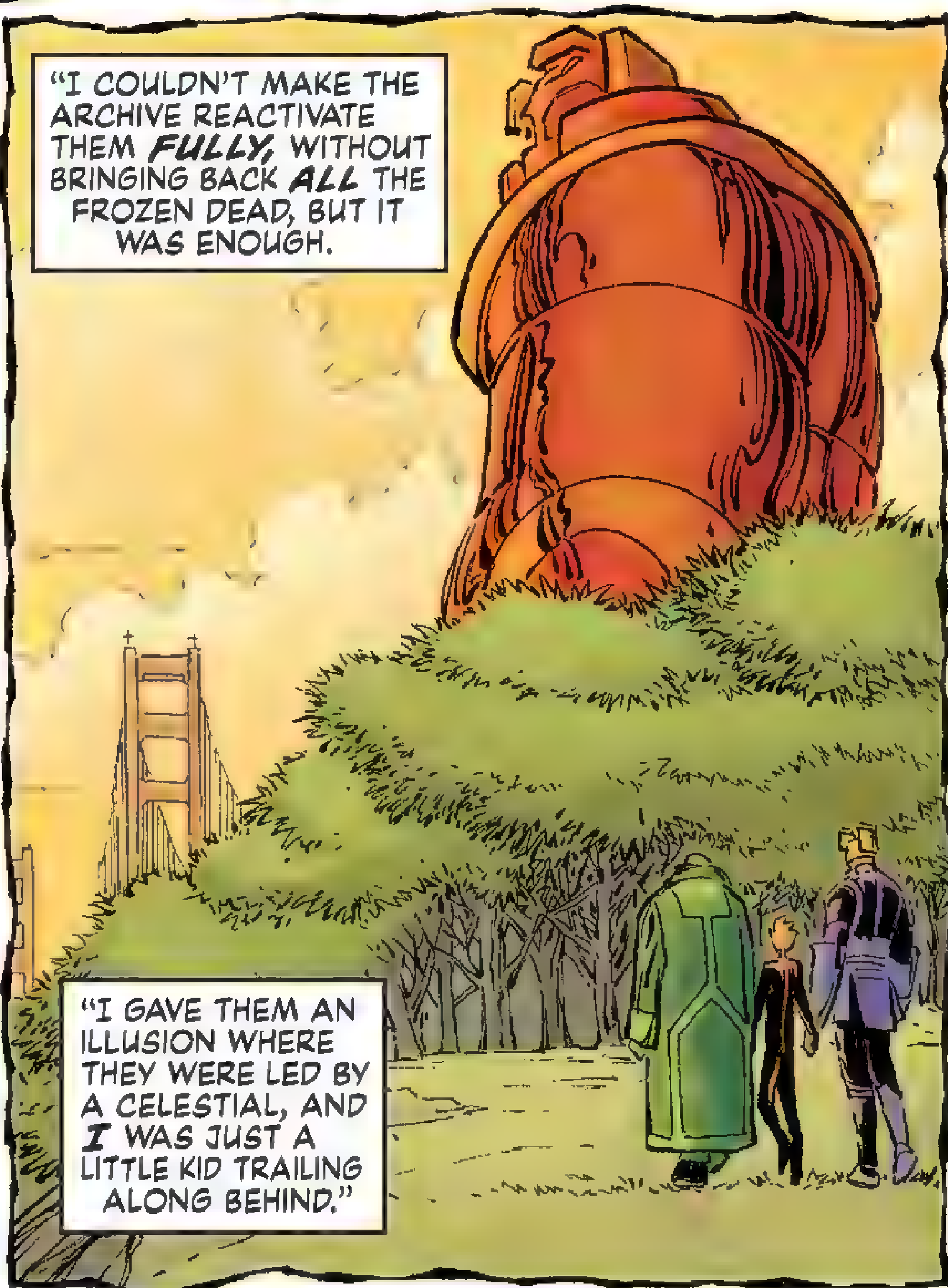

I LOOK AT ADULTS, AND I WANT TO BE THAT. IMAGINE. A MILLION YEARS KNOWING THAT THERE'S STUFF MEN AND WOMEN DO THAT I'M NEVER GOING TO BE READY FOR...
...A MILLION YEARS OF PEOPLE TREATING ME LIKE A KID...

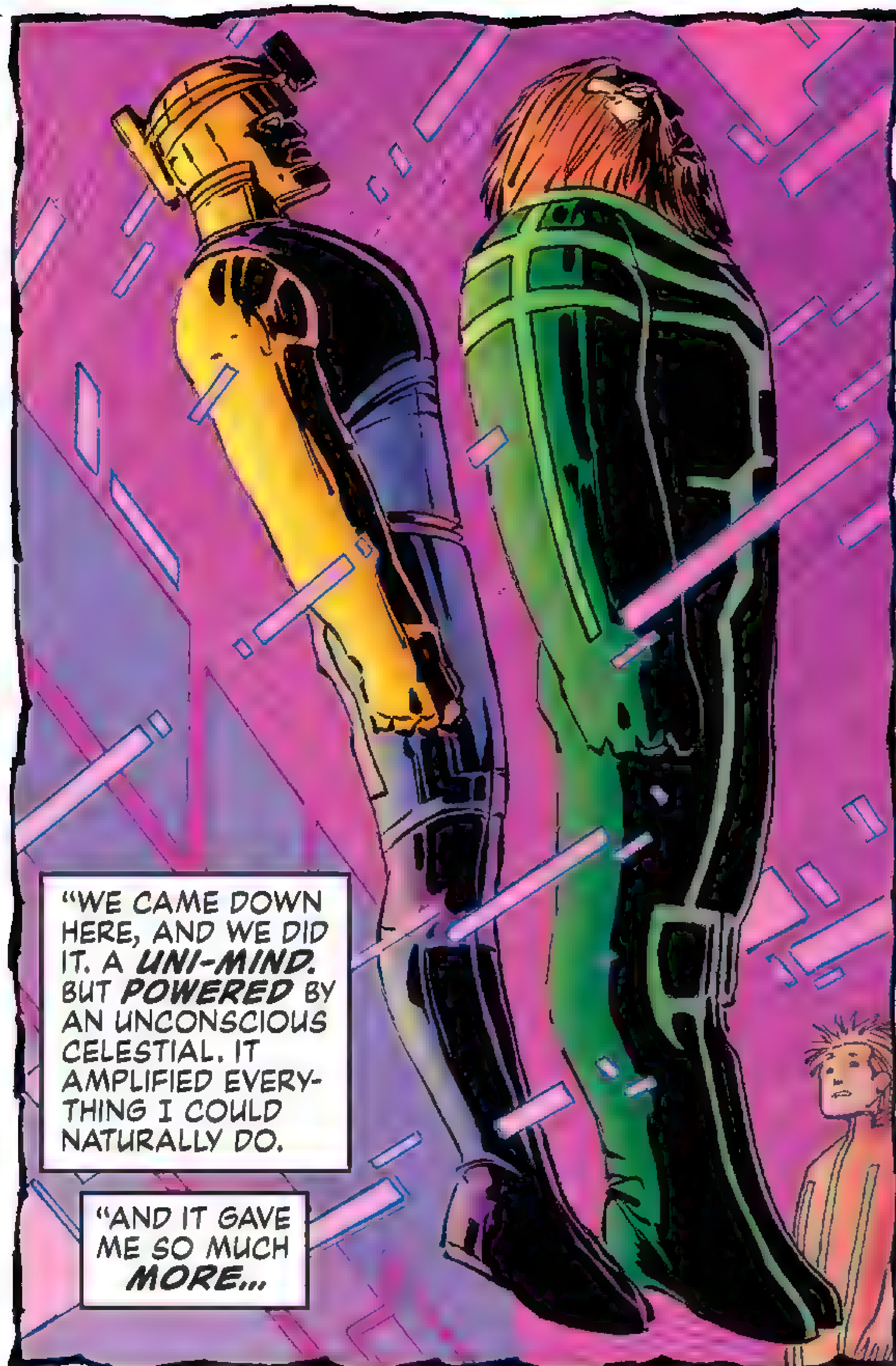

"I WAS TIRED OF IT.
"I'D BEEN TIRED OF IT FOR A VERY LONG TIME.
"I PLANNED IT FOR AGES. ALL THE DETAILS.

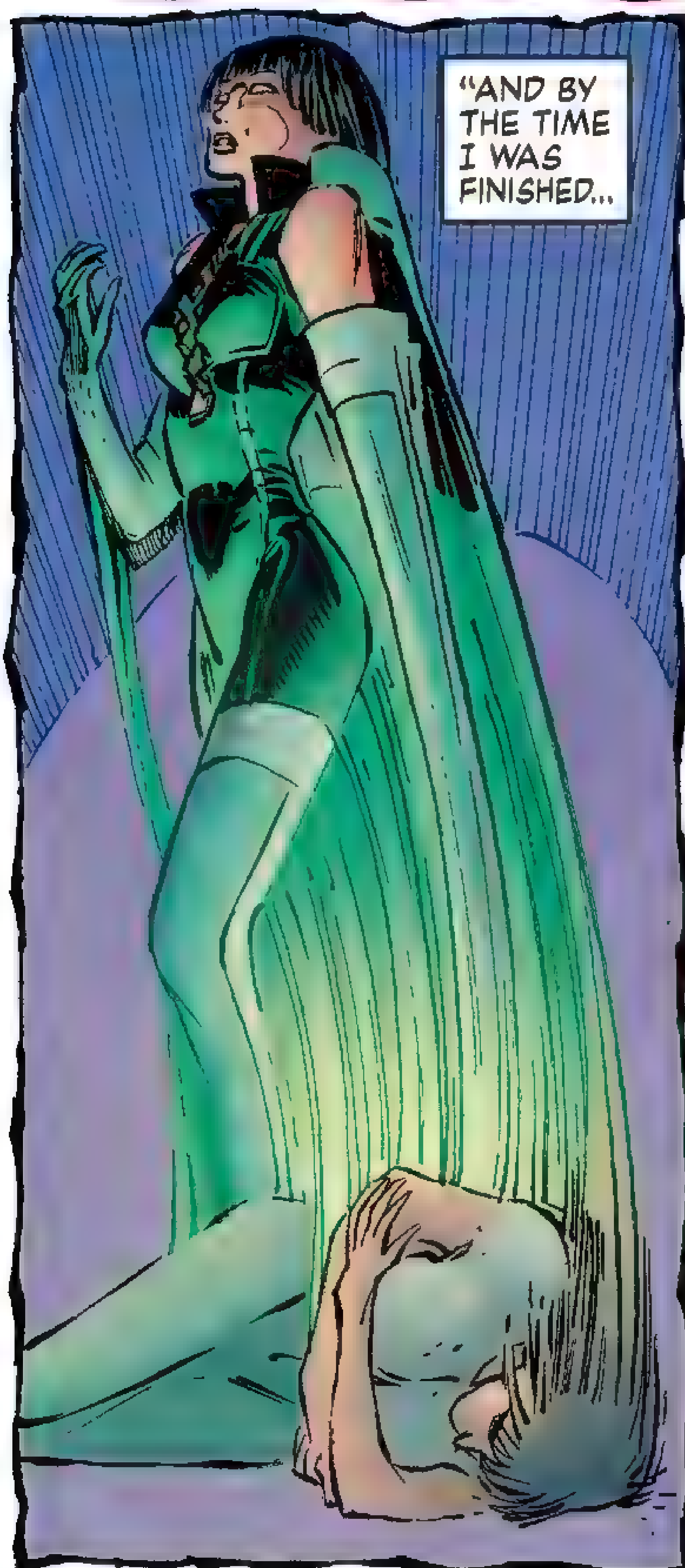

"I DON'T HAVE SPEED, LIKE YOU, OR FLIGHT LIKE IKARIS, OR TRANS-MUTATION, LIKE SERSI. BUT I HAVE ILLUSION.
"HAD ILLUSION, I MEAN."

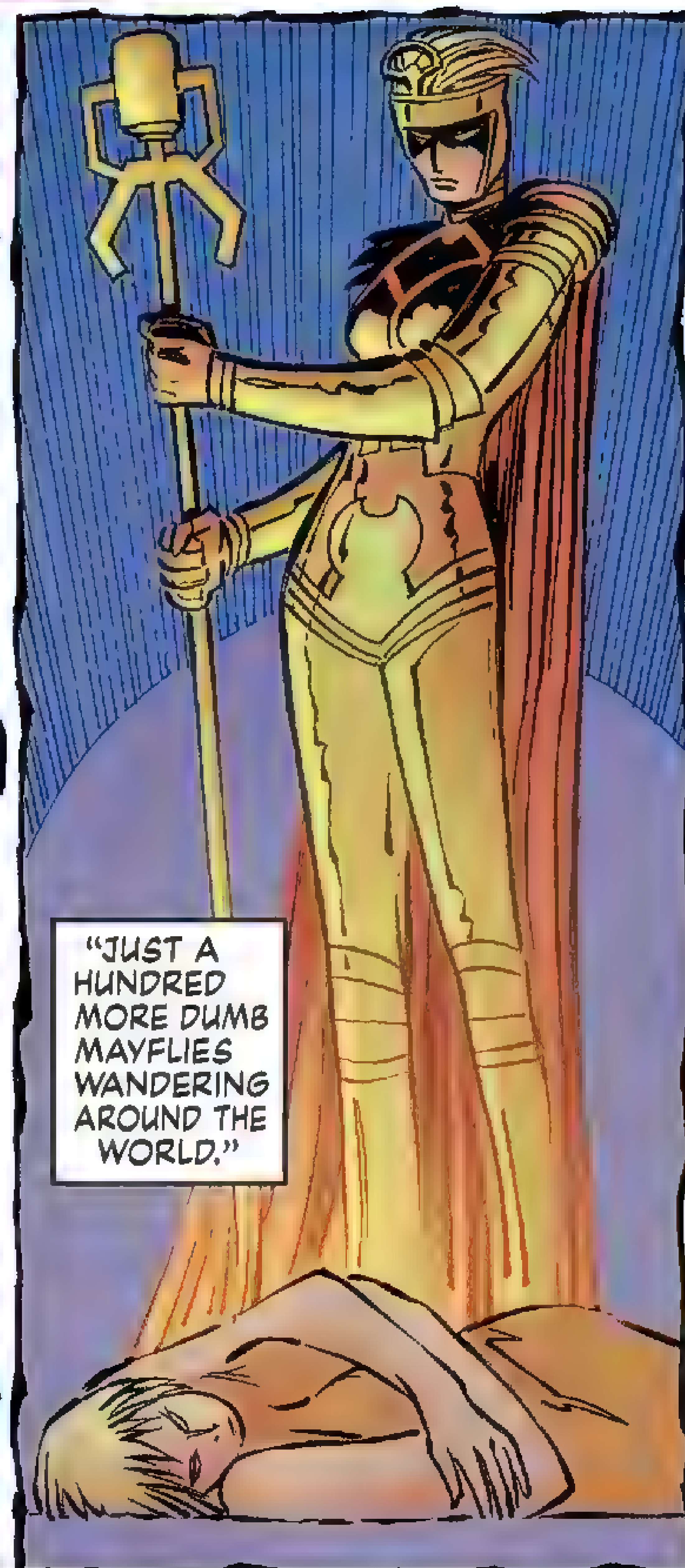

AND YOU KNOW, IN A HUNDRED YEARS, THERE'S A LOT OF ILLUSION YOU CAN CREATE. YOU CAN GIVE PEOPLE MEMORIES THAT AREN'T THEIRS. YOU CAN MAKE THEM FORGET THINGS THEY ALWAYS KNEW.


"YOU CAN MAKE PEOPLE FORGET THINGS THAT ARE TRUE AND BELIEVE THINGS THAT AREN'T. A LITTLE ILLUSION GOES SUCH A LONG WAY...
"IT TOOK A WHOLE LOT OF WORK. I MEAN, MORE WORK THAN YOU'D BELIEVE POSSIBLE.
"BUT WHEN I WAS DONE I WENT DOWN TO THE REACTIVATION CHAMBER, AND I TOOK ZURAS, THE MOST POWERFUL OF US, AND AJAK, THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD TALK TO CELESTIALS, AND I BROUGHT THEM HERE.

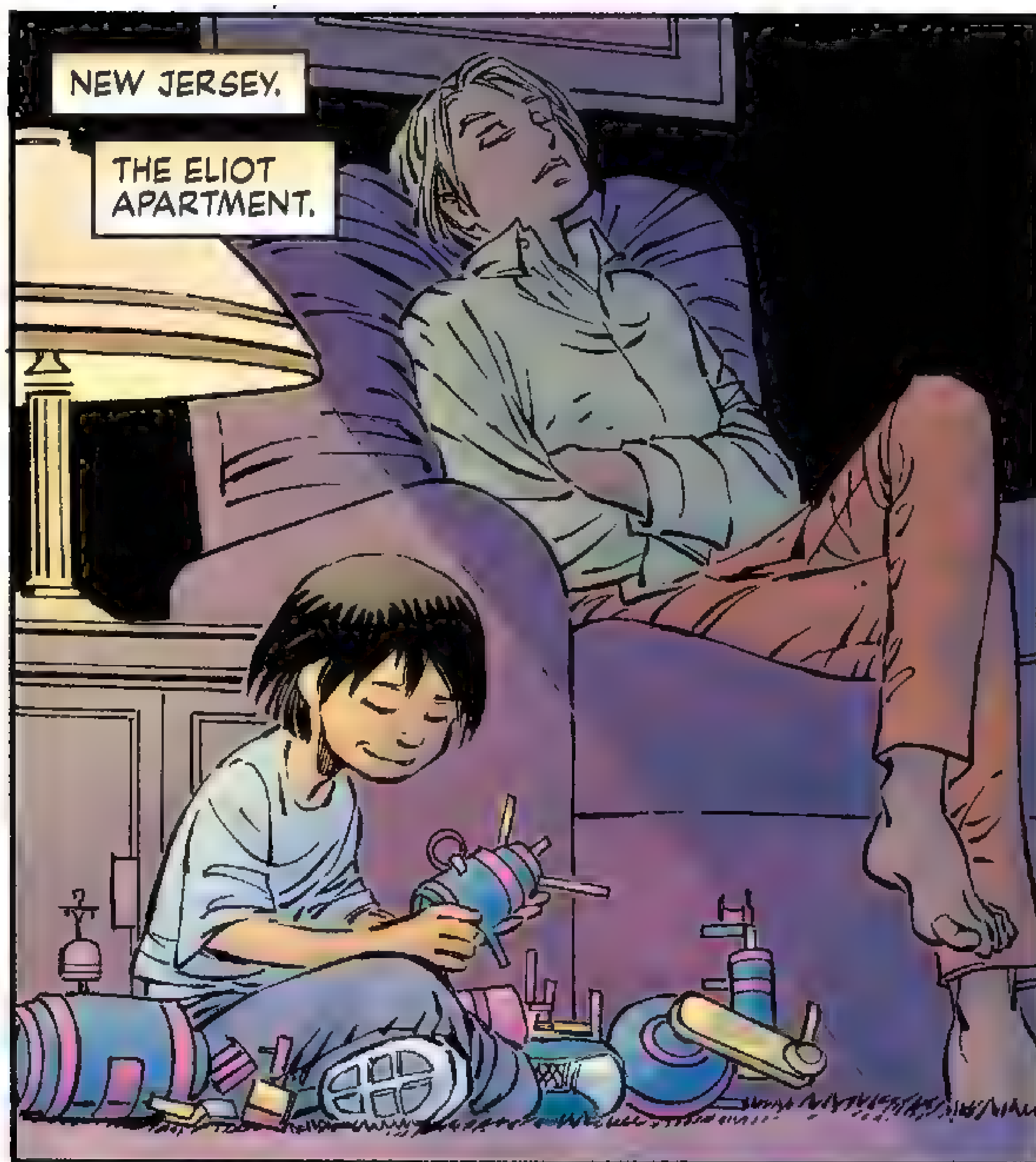

"I COULDN'T MAKE THE ARCHIVE REACTIVATE THEM FULLY, WITHOUT BRINGING BACK ALL THE FROZEN DEAD, BUT IT WAS ENOUGH.
"I GAVE THEM AN ILLUSION WHERE THEY WERE LED BY A CELESTIAL, AND I WAS JUST A LITTLE KID TRAILING ALONG BEHIND."


"WE CAME DOWN HERE, AND WE DID IT. A UNI-MIND. BUT POWERED BY AN UNCONSCIOUS CELESTIAL. IT AMPLIFIED EVERY-THING I COULD NATURALLY DO.
"AND IT GAVE ME SO MUCH MORE...

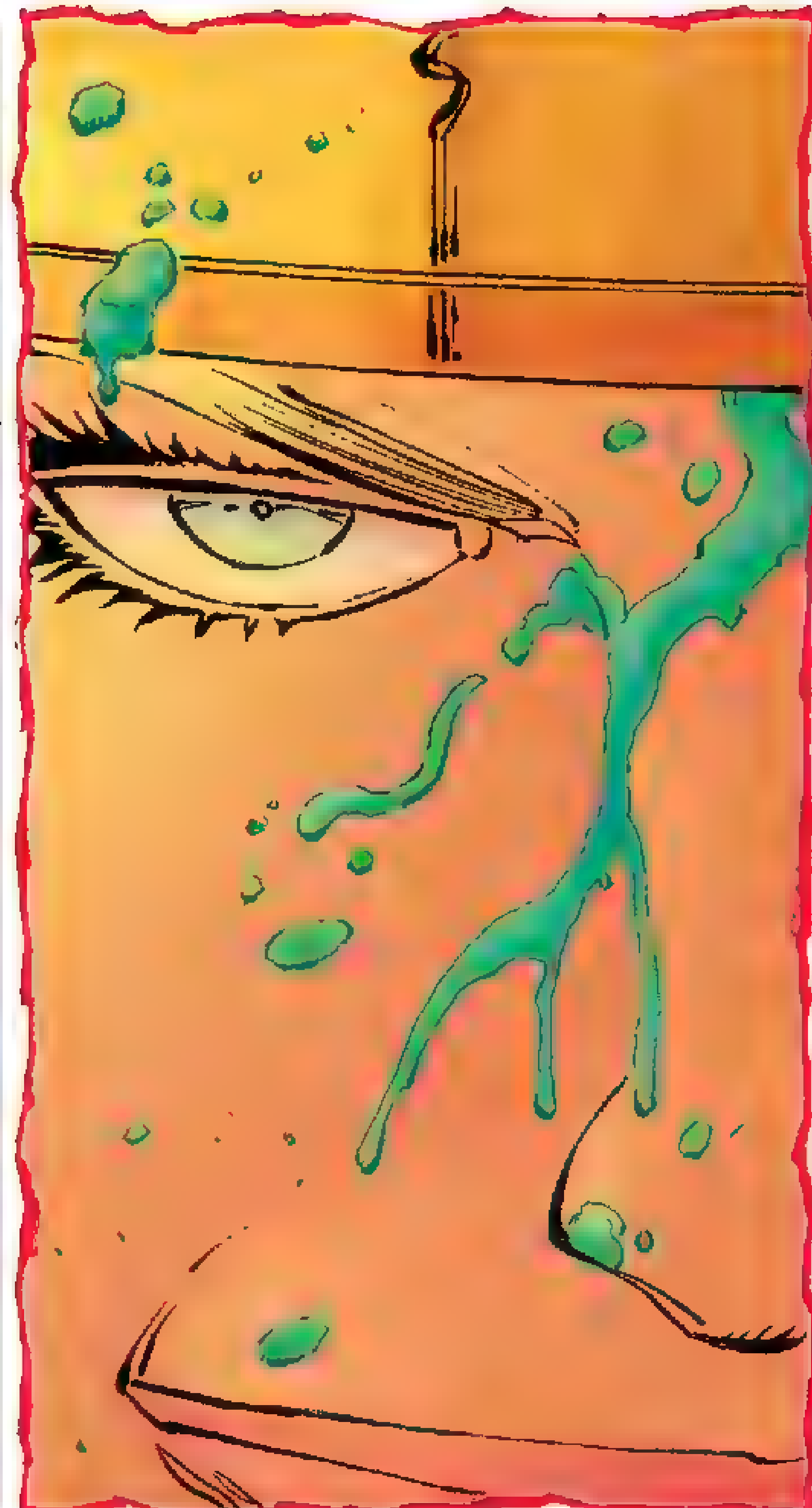
"IT WASN'T JUST ILLUSION I WAS SCREWING WITH.
"THIS WAS REALITY.

"AND BY THE TIME I WAS FINISHED...

"...I'D CHANGED THINGS.
"THERE WEREN'T ANY ETERNALS.

"JUST A HUNDRED MORE DUMB MAYFLIES WANDERING AROUND THE WORLD."

I ALREADY KNEW WHAT I WANTED.
I WANTED TO BE A FILM STAR AND A ROCK STAR AND A TV STAR. I WANTED EVERYONE TO LOVE ME. I'M GOING TO STAY A STAR UNTIL I'M IN MY TWENTIES, FOR THE GIRLS. AND THEN...
WELL, THAT DEPENDS.
BUT WHATEVER I DO, I DO IT AS A HUMAN. I CAN LEAVE THIS SOLAR SYSTEM, WHICH IS MORE THAN ANY ETERNAL CAN. I CAN EVEN DIE--DO YOU KNOW HOW COOL THAT IS?
EVERY MOMENT COULD BE MY LAST. HOW AMAZING IS THAT?
YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE, MAKKARI. A UNI-MIND POWERED BY A DREAMING CELESTIAL.
I COULD HAVE DONE WHATEVER I WANTED TO THE WORLD. I COULD HAVE MADE THE SEAS RUN RED, OR MADE SNOW TASTE LIKE CHOCOLATE.
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT.
BUT IN THE END I SETTLED FOR THIS. STARDOM AND PUBERTY. I'M A REAL BOY NOW. AND I'M GOING TO BE A MAN.
YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO ME, MAKKARI. I GAVE YOU HUMANITY.
I GAVE ALL OF YOU HUMANITY.
YOU SHOULD BE FRICKIN' GRATEFUL.







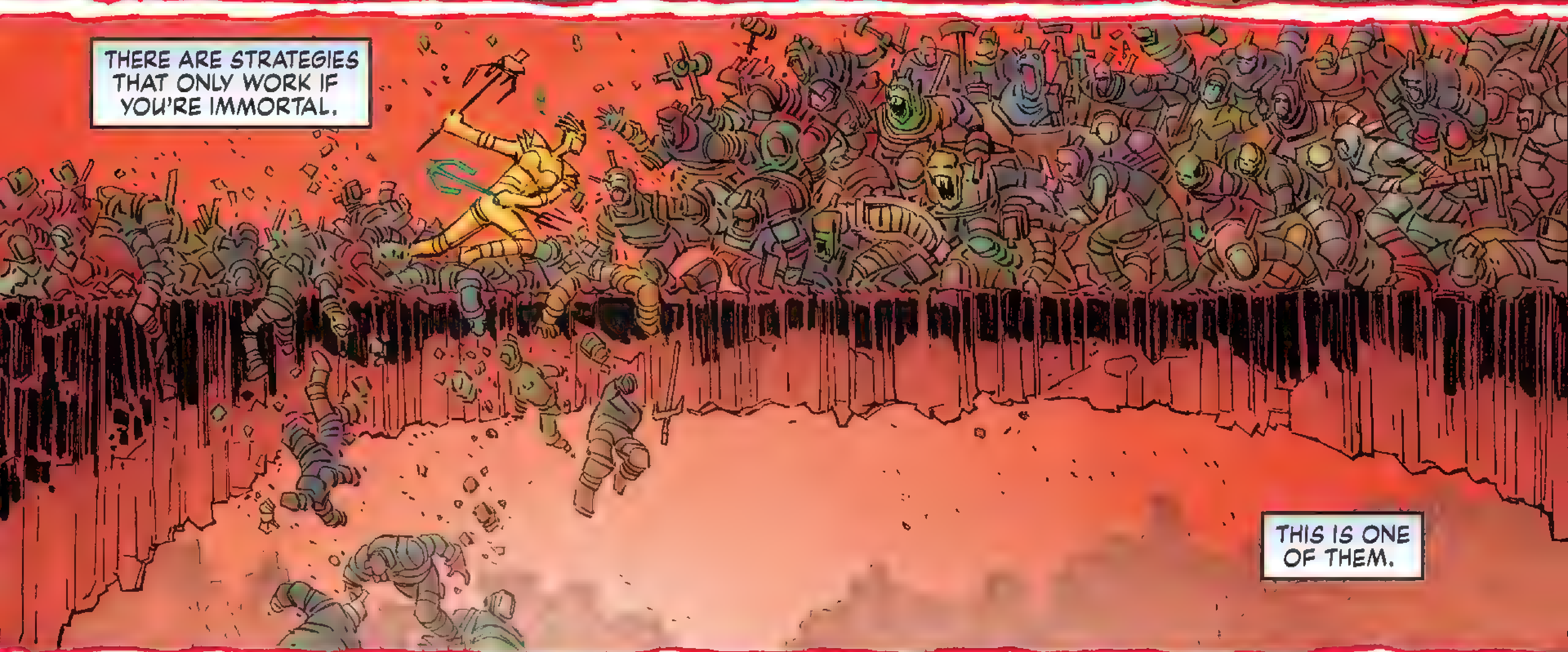


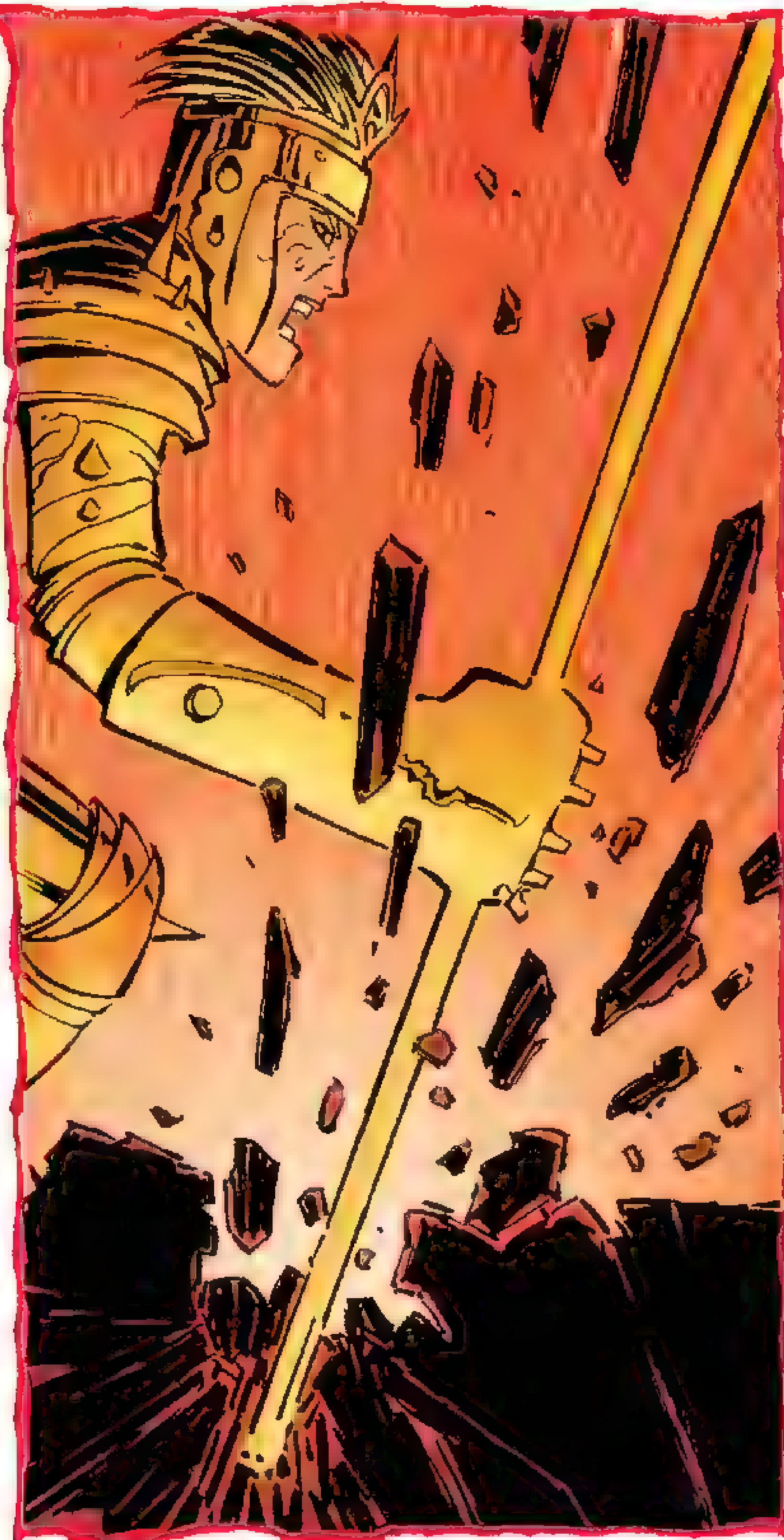
IT'S BEEN NO CONTEST.

AFTER THIRTY-SIX HOURS OF SLAUGHTER, SHE'S BEGINNING TO GET BORED.

TIME TO FINISH THIS.


SHE PUSHES FORWARD, HACKING AS SHE GOES.


THERE ARE STRATEGIES THAT ONLY WORK IF YOU'RE IMMORTAL.
THIS IS ONE OF THEM.



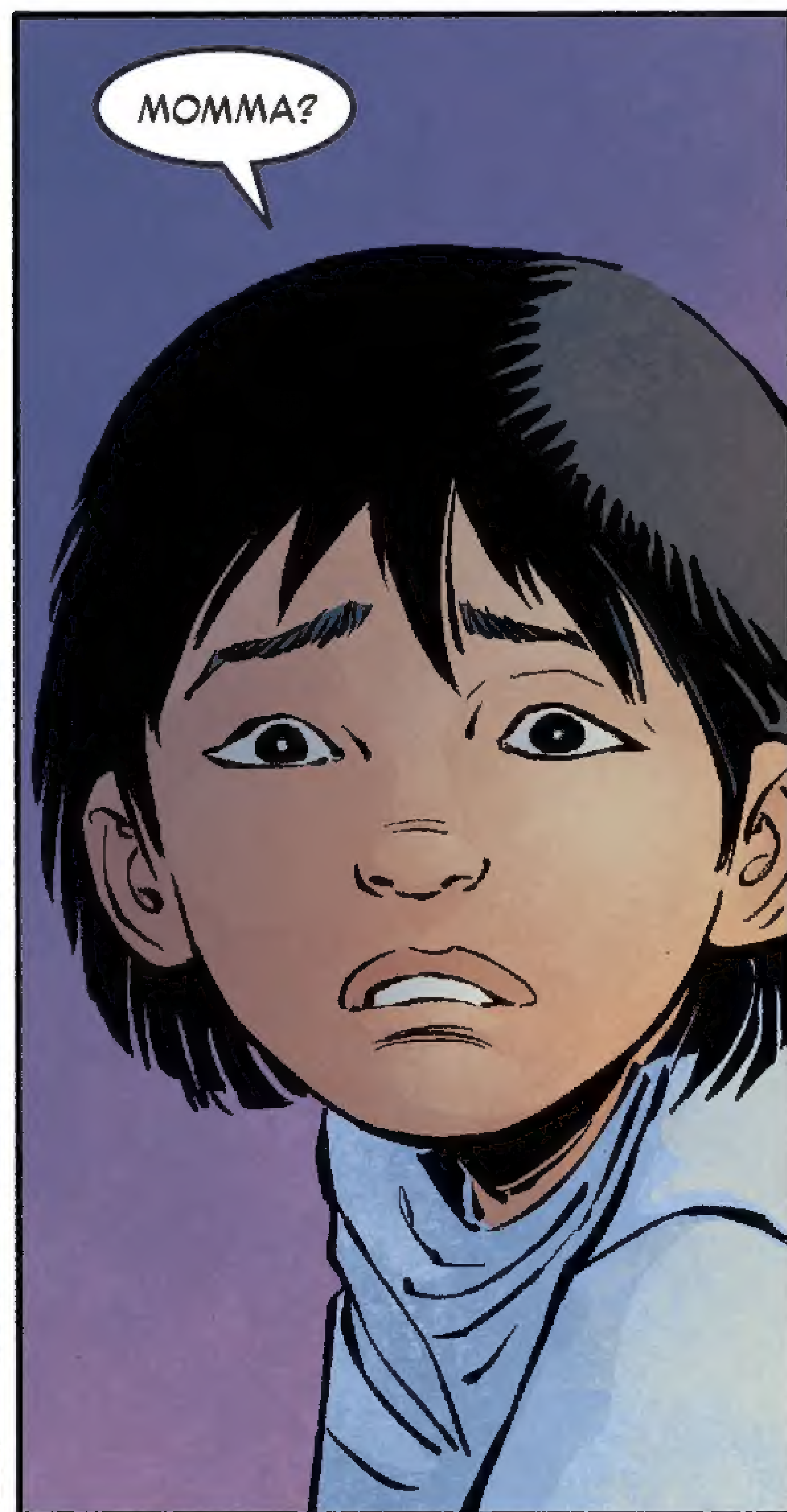




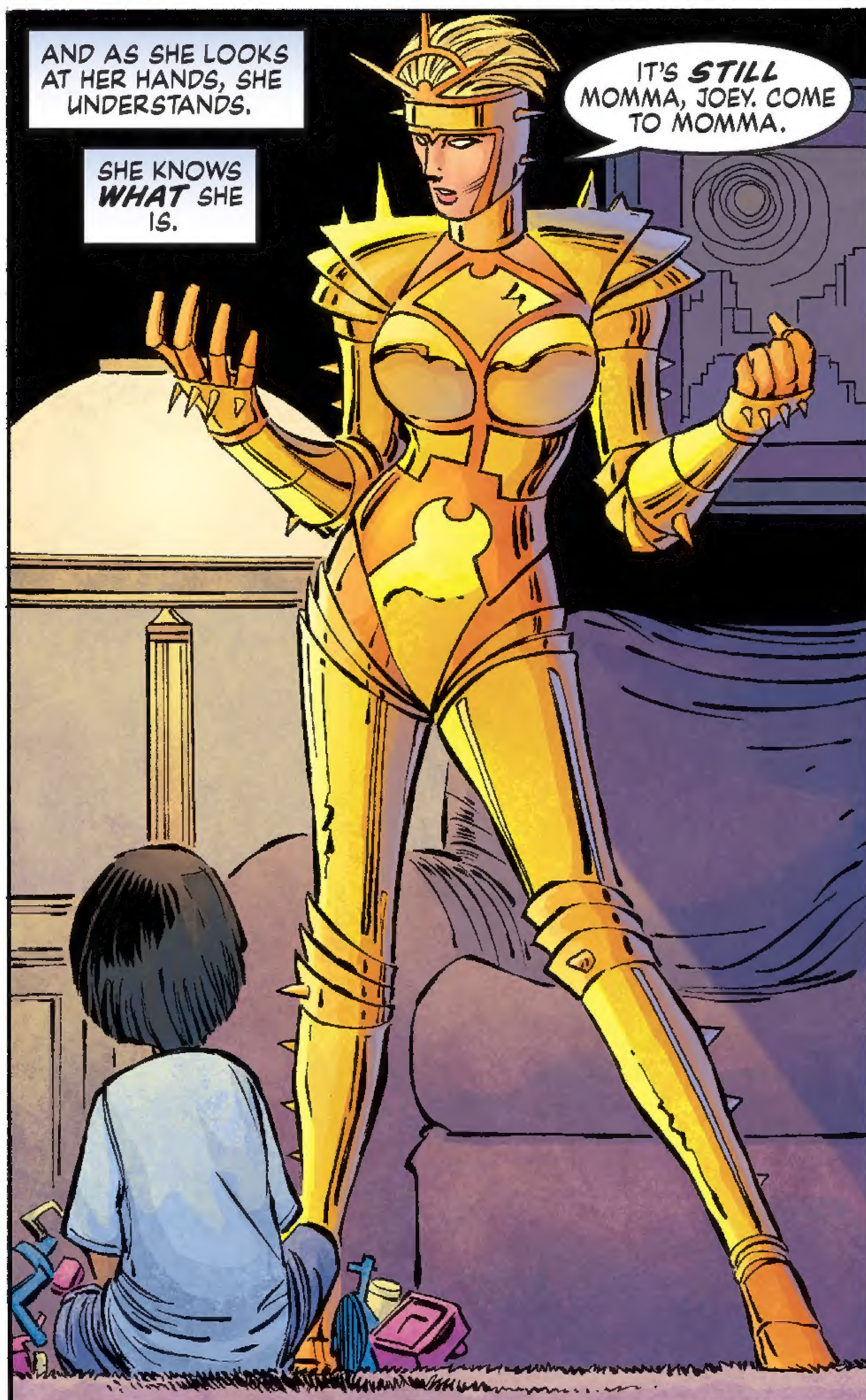




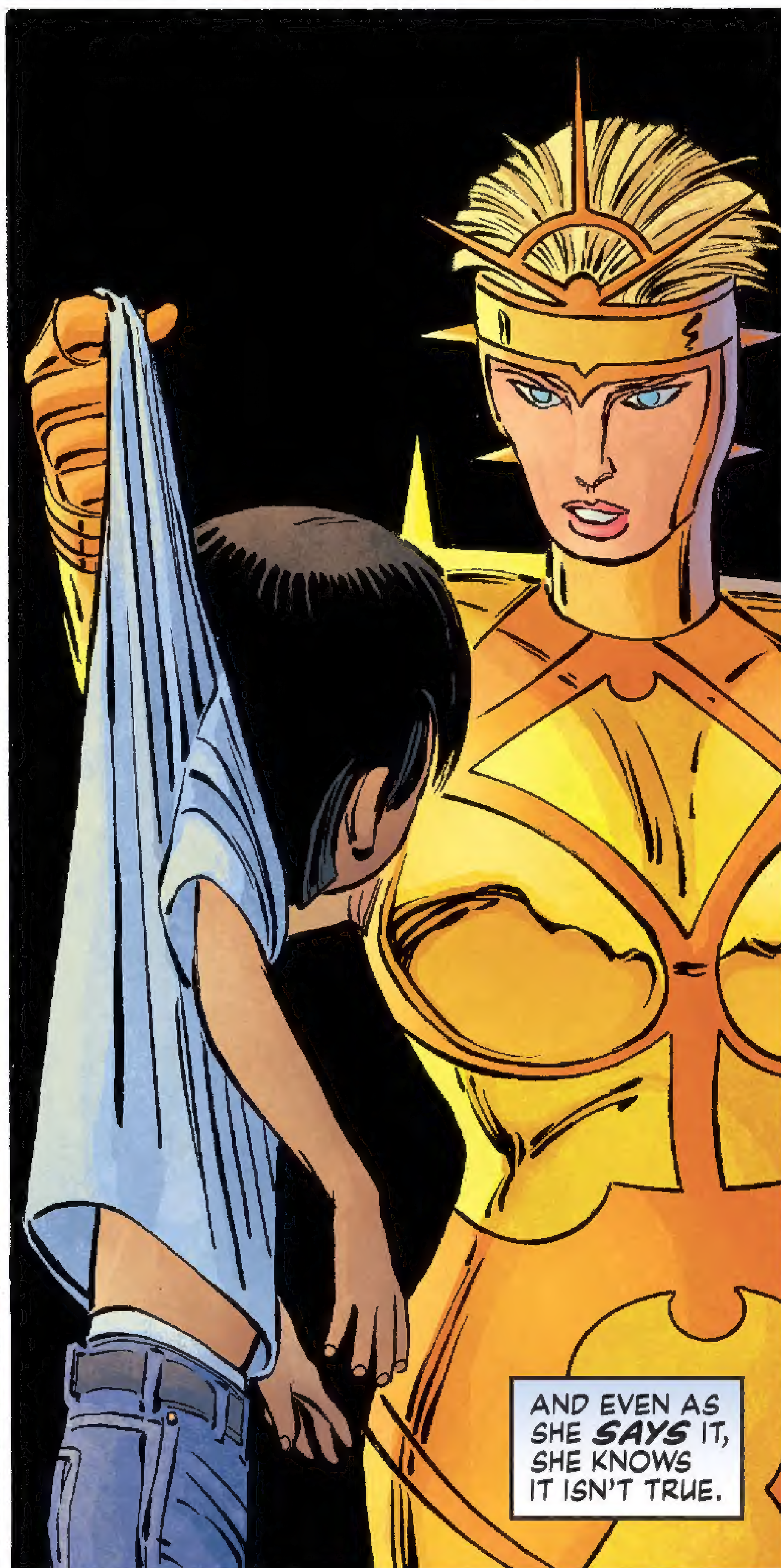
MOMMA?
JOEY? MOMMA HAD A BAD DREAM... THAT'S ALL.
IT'S OKAY. I'M SORRY, HON. EVERYTHING'S OKAY.



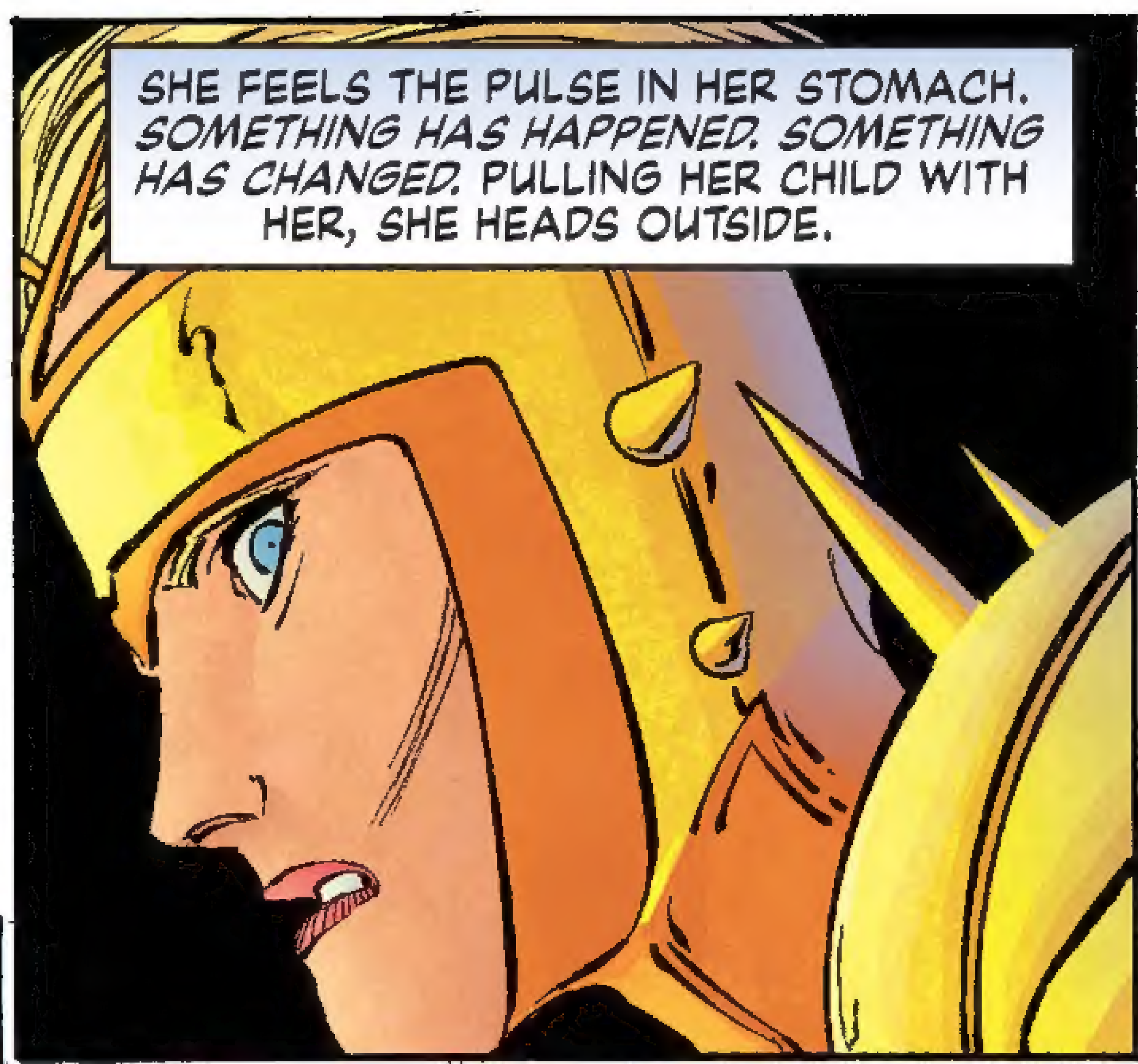
MOMMA?



AND AS SHE LOOKS AT HER HANDS, SHE UNDERSTANDS.
SHE KNOWS WHAT SHE IS.
IT'S STILL MOMMA, JOEY. COME TO MOMMA.



AND EVEN AS SHE SAYS IT, SHE KNOWS IT ISN'T TRUE.




HE HANGS IN THE AIR IMPOSSIBLY, PERFECTLY, AND SEEING HIM, SHE UNDERSTANDS WHY THE HUMANS USED TO BELIEVE THAT HER PEOPLE WERE GODS.

WHAT ELSE COULD THEY BE?

NOTHING ***HUMAN.***

NOTHING ***HUMAN*** COULD LOOK LIKE ***THAT.***


THENA?
DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
AND AS HE ASKS HER, SHE KNOWS.
SHE KNOWS EVERYTHING.
WE HAVE TO GO NOW.

GO WHERE, IKARIS?

THEY ARE GOING TO WAKE THE DREAMING CELESTIAL, THENA.
WE NEED TO SAVE THE WORLD.





ZONE